

**CORPUS
OF
BYZANTINE SEALS
FROM BULGARIA**

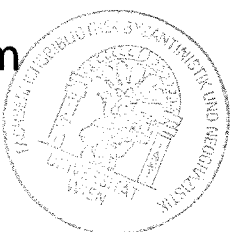
Volume 3

**Part One
Text**

Edited by Ivan Jordanov



Bulgarian Academy of Science
National Institute of Archaeology with Museum
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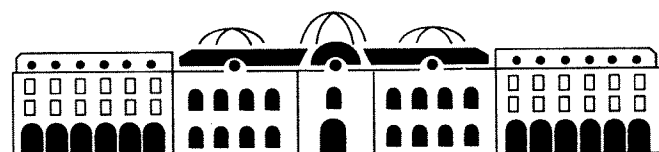


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 480. Νικόλαος Καλλίνικος πατρίκιος (mid-XI c.)
 481. Ῥώστος πατρίκιος (VIII-IX c.)
 482. Σισίνιος πατρίκιος (VII-VIII c.)
 483. Στέφανος πατρίκιος (second half, VII c.)

484. Σφενδοβολος πατρίκιος (1050s-1060s)
 485. Νικηφόρος Σιναΐτης πατρίκιος ὕπατος (mid-XI c.)
 p. πριμικήριος
 486. Θεόδωρος πριμικήριος (X-XI c.)
 487. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ πριμικήριος (X c.)
 488. Νικόλαος πριμικήριος (X-XI c.)
 qa. πρόεδρισσα
 488Α. Εἰρήνη Μεταλίνα πρόεδρισσα (last quarter of the XI c.)
 qb. πρόεδρος /πρωτοπρόεδρος
 489. Ἀλέξανδρος Παλαιολόγος πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)
 490. Γερμανὸς πρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)
 491-492. Γριγόριος Κουρκούας πρόεδρος (1080s)
 493. Θεόδωρος Ἀμασειάνος πρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)
 494. Θεόδωρος Φραγγοπούλος πρόεδρος (second half, XI c.)
 495. Θεοχάριστος πρόεδρος (late XI c.)
 496. Ἰωάννης Φασουλᾶς πρόεδρος (last quarter of the XI c.)
 497. Κωνσταντῖνος Κατακαλὼν πρόεδρος (third quarter of the XI c.)
 498. Κωνσταντῖνος Σεναχηρεῖμ πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)
 499. Κωνσταντῖνος Σεναχηρεῖμ (?) πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)
 500. Λέων Δούκας πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)
 501. Λέων Ν., πρόεδρος (last quarter of XI c.)
 502-503. Μανουὴλ Ζηλαῆς, πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)
 504. Μιχαὴλ Ν., πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)
 505. Μιχαὴλ Λιπαρίτης πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)
 506. Μουσέλιος Πακουριάνης πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)
 507. Πολύευκτος πρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)
 508. Προκόπιος πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)
 r. πρωτοβέστης
 509-513. Βασίλειος Γλαβᾶς πρωτοβέστης (1060s-1070s)
 s. πρωτοβεστίτωρ
 514. Αὐγούστινος πρωτοβεστίτωρ (VIII c.)
 t. πρωτοκουροπαλάτης
 515-516 Χριστοφόρος Βασπρακανίτης πρωτοκυροπαλάτης (late XI c.)
 u. πρωτονωβελίσσιμος
 517. Ἀλέξιος Σιαοὺς πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (1090s)
 518-519. Γεώργιος Παλαιολόγος πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (1090s).
 520. Γεώργιος Παλαιολόγος πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (90s of the XI c.)
 520Α-Β. Ῥουπένιος Θεόδωρος πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (late XI c.)
 521. Λέων Καζάνης πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (XII c.)
 521Α. Μιχαὴλ Ἀμάστριδος πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (XI/XII c.)
 522-523. Μιχαὴλ Αὐλῶνα πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (XI/XII c.)
 524-525. Τατοῦλης Πακουριανὸς πρωτονωβελίσσιμος ὁ ἄρχων τῶν ἀρχόντων (ca 1100)
 526. Ν., πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (XI-XII c.)
 v. πρωτονωβελισσιμοῦπέρτατος
 527. Κωνσταντῖνος Μανιάκης πρωτονωβελισσιμοῦπέρτατος (second half, XII c.)
 w. πρωτοπρόεδρος

528. Εὐστάθιος Κατακυνος (?) πρωτοπρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)
 528A. Μαρία Δαλασσίνη, πρωτοπροεδρίσσα
 529-536. Θεόδωρος Δοβρομύρος πρωτοπρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)
 537. Κωνσταντῖος Χοιροσφόκτης πρωτοπρόεδρος (1070s-1090s)
 538. Μιχαήλ Σολομῶν πρωτοπρόεδρος (late XI c.)
 539. Νικηφόρος Σαραντηνός πρωτοπρόεδρος (last third, XI c.)
 540. Νικόλαος Σινέσιος πρωτοπρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)
 x. πρωτοσέβαστος
 541. Ἀδριανός Κομνηνός πρωτοσέβαστος (1081-1105)
 y. πρωτοσπαθάριος
 ya. β' πρωτοσπαθάριος
 542. Βάανης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (840s-850s)
 543. Βασίλειος Τζηντζιλύκης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)
 544. Γεώργιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X- XI c.)
 545-545A. Γρηγόριος Κλιβανας πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 546. Εὐφύμιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X- XI c.)
 547. Θεόδωρος Κασταμονίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)
 548-552. Θεόδωρος Κλάδων πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 553-554. Θεόδωρος Τατούκας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 555. Ἰωάννης Ταρσίτης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)
 556. Κωνσταντινακος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (IX - X c.)
 557. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)
 558. Κωνσταντῖνος N., πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)
 559-560. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος- πατρίκιος (X c.)
 561. Λέων Ἀγιοαποστολίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος XI c.
 562-564. Μανουήλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X - XI c.)
 565. Μιχαήλ Ἐξαμιλίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)
 566. Νικήτας or Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 566A. Ῥωμανός Βλατοποδης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)
 567. Ῥωμανός Τριαδιτζίωτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 568. Ursus imperialis protospatharius (911-932)
 569. N. Ἀντιοχίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 570. N. Κυριώτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (?) (X-XI c.)
 571. N., Σκάρανος πρωτοσπαθάριος (?) (XI c.)
 572. N., πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (?) (820s-840s)
 yb. πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου.
 583-591. Ἀρκάδιος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)
 593. Γεώργιος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (first half of the XI c.)
 594. Γρήγορα β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)
 595. Θεόδωρος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)
 596-599. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (XI c.)
 600. Ἰωάννης Εὐγενιανός πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (XI c.)
 601. Μιχαήλ Μοραπας ? πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)
 602. Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)
 603. N., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)
 yc. β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν
 604. Δαυὶδ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (870-900)

605. Θεοδόσιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (870-900)
 606. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (X c.)
 607. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (X c.)
 yd. πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος
 608-611. Βασίλειος Γλαβᾶς πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος (XI c.)
 612. Ἰωάννης Πενταίλας πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος (mid-XI c.)
 613. Μιχαήλ πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος (mid-XI c.)
 z. rector
 614. Βασίλειος ῥαϊκτωρ (IX-X c.)
 aa. σεβαστός
 615. Ἄννα Δουκαῖνη σεβαστή (1068- before 1136 ?)
 616. Εἰρήνη Συναδηνή σεβαστή (first quarter, XII c.)
 617. Εὐδοκία σεβαστή (XI-XII c.)
 617A. Μαρία Δούκαινα σεβαστή (XII c.)
 618. Ξένη Δοκειανή σεβαστή (XII c.)
 619. Ἀοῖνος Δούκας σεβαστός XII c.
 620. Ἀλέξιος Κομνηνός σεβαστός (XII c.)
 621-624. Ἀλέξιος Παλαιολόγος σεβαστός (XII c.)
 625. Ἀνδρόνικος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII/XIII c.)
 625A. Ἀνδρόνικος Δούκας σεβαστός (end of the XIII c.)
 626. Ἀνδρόνικος Καματηρὸς σεβαστός (second half, XII c.)
 627-627A. Ἀνδρόνικος Κομνηνοδούκας Παλαιολόγος σεβαστός (second half, XII c.)
 628. Ἀνδρόνικος Ῥογέριος σεβαστός (XII c.)
 628A. Βασίλειος Βατάτζης σεβαστός (last quarter of the XII c.)
 629-630. Γεώργιος Γλαβᾶς σεβαστός (XII/XIII c.)
 631. Γεώργιος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII/XIII c.)
 632-642. Γεώργιος Παλαιολόγος σεβαστός (1094-1119)
 643. Θεόδωρος Οἰναιώτης σεβαστός (late XII c.)
 644. Θεόδωρος Κωντοστεφάνος σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)
 644A. Θεόδωρος Χλεβέριτος σεβαστός (XII c.)
 645. Θεόδωρος Χοῦμνος σεβαστός (XII c.)
 646. Ἰωάννης Δούκας σεβαστός (90s of XI c.)
 646A. Ἰωάννης Κομνηνός σεβαστός (XI-XII c.)
 647. Ἰωάννης Κωντοστεφάνος Κομνηνός σεβαστός (?) (XII c.)
 648. Ἰωάννης Ταρωνίτης σεβαστός (XII c.)
 649-650. Ἰωσήφ σεβαστός (XII c.)
 651-652. Κωνσταντῖνος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII/XIII c.)
 653. Κωνσταντῖνος Καμύτζης σεβαστός (1130s-1140s)
 654. Κωνσταντῖνος Κλάδων σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)
 655. Κωνσταντῖνος Ῥαοὺλ Δούκας σεβαστός (late XII c.)
 656. Κωνσταντῖνος Σαρακινόπουλος σεβαστός (XII c.)
 657-659. Μανουήλ Βοτανειάτης σεβαστός (early XII c.)
 660. Μιχαήλ Ἀτουέμης σεβαστός (XIII/XIV c.)
 660A. Μιχαήλ Στρυφνός σεβαστός (XII c.)
 661-663. Νικηφόρος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII c.)
 663A. Νικηφόρος Κομνηνός σεβαστός (XI-XII c.)
 664. Στέφανος Βατάτζης σεβαστός (XII/XIII c.)

665. Πανθήριος (?) Κομνηνοδουκάς σεβαστός (XII c.)
 ab. σεβαστοκρατόρισσα
 666. Εἰρήνη (Κομνηνὴ) σεβαστοκρατόρισσα (XII c.)
 ac. εβαστοκράτωρ
 667. Ἰωάννης Δούκας σεβαστοκράτωρ (XIII c.)
 ad. σεβαστοφόρος
 ae. σιλεντάριος
 668. Ἰωάννης σιλεντάριος (VII-VIII c.)
 668A. Νικήτας (IX c.)
 af. σπαθάριος
 669. Βαρβάρας σπαθάρισσα (IX-X c.)
 670. Θεόδωρος σπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 671. Ἰωάννης β' σπαθάριος (IX-X c.)
 672-676. Μισαήλ σπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 677. Νικηφόρος β' σπαθάριος (650-750.)
 ag. σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος
 678-682. Ἀνδρέας β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (IX-X c.)
 683. Ἀργυρὸς β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (IX-X c.)
 684. Γρηγόριος β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X c.)
 685-689. Δαμιανὸς β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)
 690-692. Θεόδοτος Στουπείτης σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (XI c.)
 693. Θεοφύλακτος β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)
 694-695. Ἰάκωβος β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (IX c.)
 696. Ἰωάννης σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (end of X c.)
 697. Ἰωάννης Θυλακᾶς σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (second half, XI c.)
 698-699. Ἰωάννης Ῥωμανάκης σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (XI c.)
 700-701. Παλατῖνος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)
 702. Στέφανος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)
 703. N., σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)
 704. N., Μακρῆς or N., Μαῦριξ σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (second half, XI c.)
 ah. στρατηλάτης
 705. Κοσμᾶ στρατηλάτης (VIII c.)
 ai. στράτωρ
 706. Γρηγοῤῥας β' στράτωρ (VIII c.)
 707. Θεοφύλακτος β' στράτωρ (IX c.)
 708. Φωτεινὸς β' στράτωρ (IX c.)
 709. Λέων στράτωρ (X c.)
 710. Σισίνιος στράτωρ (VIII c.)
 aj. ὕπατος
 711. Ἐλευθέριος ὕπατος (second half of the XI c.)
 712. Ἰωάννης ὕπατος (VIII-IX c.)
 713-714. Ἰωάννης Φιλοκάλης ὕπατος (second half, XI c.)
 715. Νικήτας ὕπατος (VIII c.)

Chapter Two

Offices at the Central Departments of the Empire

1. The Imperial Chancery

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- a. πρωτοασηκρήτης
 716-717. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πριμικήριος καὶ πρωτοασηκρήτης (X c.)
 718. Στυλιανὸς Ἰασίτης ? πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πρωτοασηκρήτης (XI c.)
 b. ἀσηκρήτης
 719. Μουσήλιος β' ἀσηκρήτης (VII c.)
 720. Ἀναστάσιος ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 721. Γεώργιος Μαλεῖνος ? ἀσηκρήτης (XI c.)
 722. Θεόγνωστος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (XI c.)
 723. Θεόδωρος ὕπατος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (IX c.)
 724-726. Θεόδωρος ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 727. Ἰωάννης ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 728. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 729-729A. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 730-732. Μανουήλ σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 733. Μιχαήλ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 734. Μύρων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 735. Νικήτας Μιτυλήναιος ἀσηκρήτης (XI c.)
 736. Στέφανος ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 737. Στέφανος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)
 c. γραματικός
 738. Εὐμάθιος Φιλοκάλης γραματικός (second half, XII c.)
 d. μυστικός
 739. N., πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μυστικός (X-XI c.)
 740. Εὐστάθιος Σινωπεῖτος μυστικός (XII c.)
 741. Ἰωάννης Φασουλᾶς βέστης καὶ μυστικός (last quarter of XI c.)
 742-743. Νικηφόρος μυστικός (XII c.)
 e. μυστογράφας
 744. Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, β' νοτάριος, κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἱποδόμου καὶ μυστογράφας
 f. μυστολέκτης
 745. Κωνσταντῖνος Σπονδύλης πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου καὶ μυστολέκτης (XI c.)
 g. πρωτονοτάριος / νοτάριος
 746-747. Δρόσος πρωτονοτάριος (second half, IX c.)
 748. Θεοδόσιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πρωτονοτάριος (X c.)
 749. Μάξιμος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πρωτονοτάριος (X-XI c.)
 750. Στέφανος πρωτονοτάριος (X c.)
 751-753. Βασίλειος Χαλκούτζης νοτάριος (X-XI c.)
 754. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ νοτάριος (X-XI c.)
 755. Λέων Χρυσοβαλαντίτης νοτάριος (XI c.)

756. Λέων νοτάριος (?) (XI c.)
 757. Νικήτας β'νοτάριος (X-XI c.)
 758-759. Νικήτας νοτάριος (X-XI c.)
 760. Νικιφόρος νοτάριος (X-XI c.)
 761. Στέφανος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου ἑξακτωρ καὶ β' νοτάριος (X-XI c.)
 h. ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου
 762. Μιχαὴλ Ἀγιοθεοδωρίτης ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου (XII c.)
 i. λογαριαστής
 762A. Μιχαὴλ ἀσηκρήτης καὶ λογαριαστής τοῦ προέδρου (XI c.)
 j. ὁ ἐπὶ τῶν δεήσεων
 763. Ν., β'σπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν δεήσεων (IX c.)
 764. Μιχαὴλ β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν δεήσεων (X c.)

2. Fiscal Departments

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- a. γενικὸς λογοθέτης
 765-768. Βασίλειος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 769. Ἐλισεῖος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 770-781. Θεόδωρος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (end of the IX c.)
 782. Θεόδωρος πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (end of the IX c.)
 783-785. Ἰωάννης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 786-788. Λέων πριμικήριος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 789. Λέων πριμικήριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)
 790-798. Λέων ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 799. Μιχαὴλ πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 800. Μιχαὴλ πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 801-811. Παῦλος Μονομάχος πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 812. Σέργιος μάγιστρος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (mid IX c.)
 813. Σισίνιος πατρίκιος, καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (960-963)
 814-819. Φιλόθεος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (second half, IX c.)
 820-827A. Φώτιος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)
 828. Ν., β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)
 829. Ν., ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)
 830. Ν., . . . πατρίκιος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)
 831. Ν., β) ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)
 b. ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν
 832. Ν., ἀσηκρήτης, β'νοτάριος τῶν οἰκειακῶν (XI c.)
 833. Κωνσταντῖνος βεστάρχης, ὕπατος, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (third quarter, XI c.)
 c. οἰκιστικός
 834. Νικόλαος β'οικιστικός (X c.)
 d. ἀπογραφεύς

835. Ν., ἀπογραφεύσοι XII c.
 e. κόμης τῆς λαμίας
 836. Θεοφύλακτος β'στράτωρ καὶ κόμης τῆς λαμίας (IX-X c.)
 f. πραγματευτής
 837. Ἀνδρέας πραγματευτής (X c.)
 838. Πλωτίνιος πραγματευτής (IX-X c.)

3. Logothetes of the dromos

300

- a. λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου
 839. Θεόκτιστος πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (829-842)
 840-842. Θωμᾶς πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)
 843. Λέων μάγιστρος, ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)
 844-849. Θεόκτιστος πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)
 850. Λέων κουροπαλάτης καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (963-969)
 851-854. Συμεὼν μάγιστρος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (70s of the X c.)
 855. Μιχαὴλ Ἀριστηνός λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (late XI c.)
 856-857. Παῦλος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)
 b) πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου
 858. Παντολέον ὕπατος καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (20s of the IX c.)
 859. Ἰωάννης β'πρωτοσπαθάριος, πρωτοασηκρήτης καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (IX-X c.)
 860. Ἰωάννης (?) β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (XI c.)
 861. Ν., β'σπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)
 c. χαρτουλάριος τοῦ δρόμου.
 862. Νικήτας β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ δρόμου (X-XI c.)
 863. Χριστοφόρος πριμικήριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ δρόμου τῆς Δύσεως (X-XI c.)
 864. Χριστοφόρος β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν βαρβάρων (X c.)

4. Logothetes tou stratiotikou

313

865. Νικήτας, ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ στρατιωτικοῦ (X c.).

5. Logothetes ton agelon

313

- 866-871. Βασίλειος β'οστιάριος, ἀσηκρήτης καὶ ἐκ προσώπου τοῦ λογοθέτου τῶν ἀγελῶν (X-XI c.)
 872. Νικήτας Χαλκούτζης β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου τῶν ἀγελῶν (XI c.)

6. Treasuries

315

- a. σακελλάριος
 873. Ἰωάννης πατρίκιος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β'σακελλάριος (820s-840s)
 874-75. Ἰωάννης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ β'σακελλάριος (X c.)

- 876-877. Ἰωσήφ πατρίκιος, πραιποσίτος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)
878. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ σακελλάριος (X c.)
879. Λέων πατρίκιος, πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (IX-X c.)
880. Μιχαὴλ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)
881. Νικόλαος Ἀγγούρης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)
882. Παῦλος Μονομάχος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)
- 883-884. Πέτρος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)
- aa. νοτάριος τῆς σακέλης
885. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθάριος, κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου καὶ β' νοτάριος τῆς σακέλης (X c.)
- b. ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου
886. Θεόδωρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (first half, IX c.)
- 887-895. Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου
896. Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (X c.)
897. Φιλίττος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (X c.)
- c. β' βεστιάριου
- 898-902. β' βεστιάριον (first half, IX c.)
- d. χαρτουλάριος τοῦ β' βεστιαρίου
903. Ἰμέριος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ β' βεστιαρίου (IX c.)
904. Προκόπιος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ β' βεστιαρίου (mid of the IX c.)
- e. νοτάριος τοῦ β' βεστιαρίου
905. Βαάνης ὑπάτος καὶ νοτάριος τοῦ β' βεστιαρίου (1040s)
906. Χριστοφόρος σπαθαροκανδίδατος β' νοτάριος τοῦ βεστιαρίου

7. The Imperial domains

328

- a. μέγας κουράτωρ
907. Μύρων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας κουράτωρ (IX c. second half)
- aa) μέγας κουράτωρ τῆς χρυσοεφίτης
- 908-909. Βασίλειος Χρυσοεφίτης β' σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ μέγας κουράτωρ (X-XI c.)
- 910-911. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ κουράτωρ (X-XI c.)
- ab. νοτάριος τῆς μέγας κουράτωρ
- 912-913. Ἰωάννης β' νοτάριος τῆς μέγας κουράτωρ (X-XI c.)
- b. κουράτωρ τοῦ Πετρίου
914. Θεοφύλακτος πριμικήριος καὶ κουράτωρ τοῦ Πετρίου (X-XI c.)
915. Ἰωάννης β' οἰστιάριος καὶ κουράτωρ τῶν β' οἰκῶν τοῦ Πετρίου (X-XI c.)
916. Θεοφύλακτος κουράτωρ τοῦ μαγίστρου (IX-X c.)
- c. κουράτωρες τῶν κτημάτων
917. Βασίλειος Καματηρὸς κτημάτηνος (XI c.)
- d. μεζότερος

918. Σταυράκιος β' μεζότερος τῆς Λαμπροῦ or Κυπροῦ ? (VIII-IX c.)
- e. ἐπισκεπτήτης
919. Βασίλειος σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ ἐπισκεπτήτης τῆς Λαμπροῦ (X-XI c.)
- f. ξενοδόχος
- 920-921. Δαμιανὸς β' βεστίτωρ καὶ ξενοδόχος τῶν Πυλῶν (last quarter of the IXth c.)
922. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σκευοφύλακος καὶ ξενοδόχος τῶν Σάμψων (mid-IXth c.)
- g. πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ β' οἴκου τῶν Μαγγάνων
923. Μιχαὴλ β' σπαθαροκανδίδατος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ β' οἴκου τῶν Μαγγάνων (X c.)
924. Λέων χαρτουλάριος τοῦ Ψωμάθειας (X c.)

8. Justice

337

- A. Ἐπαρχος τῆς Πόλεως
- aa. ἔπαρχος
925. Ἀριστηνὸς ἔπαρχος (XI/XII c.)
926. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἔπαρχος (X c.)
927. Φιλόθεος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἔπαρχος ἱμάτων ἐξωπρατείκον (X c.)
928. N., β' σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ πρετορίου (X c.)
- ab. νομικὸς
- 929-930. Γρηγόριος σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ νομικὸς (70s-80s of the X c.)
- ac. βουλλωτῆς τοῦ ἔπαρχου
931. Παῦλος βουλλωτῆς τοῦ ἔπαρχου (X c.)
- b. κοιαίστωρ
- 932-933. Μιχαὴλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κοιαίστωρ (X c.)
934. [Βασίλειος] Πεκούλης κριτῆς καὶ κοιαίστωρ (XII c.)
935. N., N., βέστης, βεστάρχης καὶ κοιαίστωρ (second half of the XI c.)
- c. κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵποδρόμου or κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου
- 936-938. Βασίλειος Μαῦρος πρόεδρος καὶ κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ Ἰποδρόμου (last quarter, XI c.)
939. Μαρριανὸς or Μαρινὸς β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵποδρόμου (X-XI c.)
940. Χριστόφορος Τιμωνίτης κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου (second half of the XI c.)
- d. δρουγγάριος τῆς βίγλης
- e. ἐπὶ τῶν κρίσεων
- 941-944. Εὐθύμιος ἐπὶ τῶν κρίσεων (last quarter, XI c.)
- f. ἐξάκτωρ
945. N., πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵποδρόμου καὶ ἐξάκτωρ (X-XI c.)

9. Indeterminate Departments

349

- a. ἐκ προσώπου
946. Καλοκυρὸς Πηγονίτης σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (XI c.)
947. Λέων σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (XI c.)
- 948-949. Νικόλαος Τορνίκης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (X c.)
950. N., σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (X-XI c.)

951. Ν., σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (X-XI c.)
 b. χαρτουλάριος / μέγας χαρτουλάριος....
 952-953. Εὐφήμιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας χαρτουλάριος ..(X-XI c.)
 954. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)
 955. Πολύευκτος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ... (XI c.)
 956. Δημήτριος χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)
 957. Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)
 958-962. Εὐστάθιος ὀστιάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)
 963. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀσηκρήτης καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)
 964. Μιχαὴλ χαρτουλάριος (XI c.)
 c. ἐπισκεπτής
 965. Ἰωάννης σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ ἐπισκεπτής (X-XI c.)

Chapter Three

Offices and Departments at the Army

355

1. Δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν
 966. Βάρδας κουροπαλάτης καὶ δομέστικος (859-862)
 967-991. Πέτρος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν θεοφυλάκτων σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (971-?)
 992-993. Στέφανος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (17.08.986-?)
 994-996. Λέων Μελισσηνός μάγιστρος, ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (17th August 986-?)
 997-999. Νικηφόρος μάγιστρος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν (1000)
 1000. Λέων Περηνός μάγιστρος καὶ δούξ πάσης Δύσεως (third quarter, XIth c.)
 1001. Νικηφόρος Βατάτζης, μάγιστρος βέστης καὶ δούξ πάσης Δύσεως (1060s-1070s)
 1002-1012. Ἀλέξιος Κομνηνός σεβαστὸς καὶ μέγας δομέστικος (1078-1081)
 1013. Ἀλέξιος Κωντοστεφάνος μέγας δούξ ? (XII c.)
 1014. Φιλάρετος Βραχάμιος πρωτοσέβαστος καὶ δομέστικος Ἐώας (?-1084)
 1015-1016. Ἀδριανός Κομνηνός πρωτοσέβαστος καὶ μέγας δομέστικος πάσης Δύσεως
 1017-1018. Ἰωάννης σεβαστὸς καὶ μέγας δομέστικος πάσης Ἀνατολῆς καὶ ὕσεως (first half, XIIth c.)
 1019. Ἰωάννης σεβαστὸς καὶ μέγας δομέστικος πάσης Ἀνατολῆς (first half, XIIth c.)
 a. τοποτηρητὴς τῶν σχολῶν
 1019A. Ἀλέξιος Γίδος σεβαστὸς καὶ μέγας δομέστικος τῆς Δύσεως (end of the XII c.)
 1020. Μιχαὴλ Κορδίλης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς τῶν σχολῶν (XI c.)
 1021. Συνέσιος σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (third quarter, XIth c.)
 b. ἄνθρωπος τοῦ δομέστικου τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως
 1022. Δραζιμῖρ ? πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπάτος καὶ ἄνθρωπος τοῦ κουροπαλάτου καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (1057-1067)

1023. Ῥωμανὸς β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου ὁ τοῦ δομεστικός τῶν σχολῶν (X c.)
 2. Στρατηλάτης
 a. στρατηλάτης
 1024. Ἰωάννης Ὀφειομάχος βεστάρχης καὶ στρατηλάτης (1060s-1070s)
 b. στρατηλάτης τῆς Δύσεως
 1025. Βρυένιος Βατάτζης πατρίκιος-ὑπάτος καὶ στρατηλάτης τῆς Δύσεως (mid-XIth c.)
 1026. Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς τοῦ στρατηλάτου (XIth c.)
 3. Δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων
 1027. Ἀδράλεστος πατρίκιος, δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων καὶ τῆς Ἀνατολῆς (Xth c.)
 1028. Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων (X-XI c.)
 1029. Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐξκούβιτος (X-XI c.)
 1030. Μιχαὴλ Δριμύς πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς τῶν ἐλαδικῶν, ἐξκουβίτων (XIth c.)
 4. Δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων
 1031-1037. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων καὶ Δύσεως (975-?)
 1038. Θεόδωρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων (X c.)
 1039. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων (X c.)
 1040-1041. Νικηφόρος Τζουράκης / Τζυράκης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων (X c.)
 5. Δρουγγάριος τῆς βῆγλης
 1042-1044. Κυριακὸς πατρίκιος καὶ δρουγγάριος τῆς βῆγλης (X-XI c.)
 a. τοποτηρητὴς τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ
 1045. Θεόδωρος Τζάντζης β' σπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρὴς τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ (X-XI c.)
 6. Δομέστικος τῶν νουμέρων
 1046. Μιχαὴλ πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ δομέστικος τῶν νουμέρων (X-XI c.)
 7. Δρουγγάριος τῶν πλοίμων
 1047. Ἡλίας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοίμων (IX c.)
 1048. Χριστοφόρος πατρίκιος καὶ δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοίμων (X c.)
 1049. Λέων πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, βέστης καὶ δρουγγάριος τῶν πλοίμων (970s)
 1050. Κωνσταντῖνος βεστάρχης καὶ δρουγγάριος τῶν πλοίμων (third quarter, XIth c.)
 7a. κόμης τοῦ στόλου
 1051. Ἰωάννης Προβατᾶς σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ κόμης τοῦ στόλου
 1052. Κωνσταντῖνος κόμης τοῦ στόλου (X-XI c.)
 8. Δομέστικος τοῦ τείχους
 1053-1054. Ῥωμανὸς β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τοῦ τείχους (X-XI c.)
 9. Δομέστικος τῶν βασιλικῶν
 1055. Κωνσταντῖνος Βεριώτης (?) πρωτοσπαθάριος κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ δομέστικος τῶν βασιλικῶν (X-XI c.)
 10. Κόμης τοῦ σταύλου
 1056. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος πατρίκιος, κόμης τοῦ σταύλου καὶ πρωτοστράτωρ (970s-980s)
 1057. Ἰσαάκιος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κόμης τοῦ σταύλου (X-XI c.)
 1058. Ἰωάννης κλιρικὸς καὶ ἐπείκτης τοῦ στόλου (XI c.)

11. Κόμης τῆς κόρτης
1059. Εὐγένιος κόμης τῆς κόρτης (X-XI c.)
12. Ταξιάρχης
- 1060-1061. Βραχάμιος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ταξιάρχης (XI c.)
1062. Γεώργιος ταξιάρχος (XI c.)
- 1063-1064. Ἐλπίδιος Βραχάμιος ταξιάρχης (XI c.)
- 1065-1066. Θεόδωριος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ταξιάρχης (last quarter, Xth c.)
1067. Ἰωάννης ταξιάρχος (X-XI c.)
1068. Ἰωσήφ σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)
1069. Κούρτος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)
- 1070-1072. Λέων Πεδιάσιμος ταξιάρχης (XI c.)
1073. Μιχαὴλ Ἀλυάτης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)
1074. Μιχαὴλ Φυτιανός β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)
1075. Ῥωμανός β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)
1076. Ν., Δηποταμίτης σπαθᾶριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (XI c.)
1077. Ν., Κατακαλὼν ταξιάρχης (XI c.)
1078. Ν., Στραβοτριχάρης ταξιάρχης (XI c.)
- 13 Ταγματοφύλαξ
1079. Θεοφάνης Ἀργυρὸς ταγματοφύλαξ καὶ χαρτουλᾶριος (X-XI c.)
1080. Θεόδωρος Ν., ταγματοφύλαξ καὶ τοποτηρητὴς (X-XI c.)
14. Μονοστρατηγὸς
- 1081-1082. Μιχαὴλ μονοστρατηγὸς (XI c.)
15. Ακολουθός
1083. Μιχαὴλ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος . . . ἀκολουθός καὶ ἄνθρωπος τοῦ κρατεοῦ καὶ ἁγίου ἡμῶν βασιλέως (mid of the XI c.)
16. Ὀπλώταρχης.
1084. Δημήτριος Ἀπόκαυκος. . . ., (XI c.)
17. Unrelated to particular military corps
 - a. πρόξιμος
 1085. Μιχαὴλ σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ πρόξιμος (X-XI c.)
 - b. τοποτηρητὴς
 - 1085Α. Βάρδας Κρατερὸς τοποτηρητὴς (XI c.)
 1086. Βασίλειος β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς (X-XI c.)
 1087. Ἰωάννης τοποτηρητὴς (VI-VII c.)
 1088. Ἰωάννης Ἀγγελὸς σεβαστός καὶ μέγας πριμικήριος (XII c.)
 1089. Ἀνδρόνικος Λαπαρδᾶς σεβαστός καὶ χαρτουλᾶριος (1166-1183)

Chapter Four

Provincial Administration

A. With toponyms

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1. Ἀβύδος
1100. Νικήτας β' στράτορ, τουρμάρχης καὶ παραφύλαξ Ἀβύδος (mid-IXth c.)
1101. Ἰωάννης Ν., πρωτοσπαθᾶριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ κομμερκῆριος

- Ἀβύδου (XI c.)
2. Ἀγχιάλου
- 1102-1105. Βάρδας πρωτοπαπᾶς καὶ β' κουράτωρ Ἀγχιάλου (XIth century)
3. Ἀδριανούπολεως
1106. Χριστοφόρος ὑπάτος καὶ κουμμερκῆριος Ἀδριανουπόλεως (822-823)
1107. Θεοδωροκάνος πατρίκιος καὶ δοῦξ Ἀδριανουπόλεως (1000-1006)
1108. Θεοφύλακτος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, βέστης καὶ δοῦξ Ἀδριανουπόλεως (X-XI c.)
- 1109-1110. Συμεὼν βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Ἀδριανουπόλεως καὶ Μεσημβρίας (the 70s of the XIth century)
4. Αἰγαίον πελάγους
1111. Φίλιππος β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τοῦ Αἰγαίου πελάγους (Xth century)
5. Ἀντιοχείας
1112. Μιχαὴλ Ἰασίτης μάγιστρος καὶ δοῦξ Ἀντιοχείας (?-1047)
6. Ἀνατολικῶν
1113. Βαλάντιος β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν Ἀνατολικῶν (IXth-Xth c.)
- 1114-1117. Διογένης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν Ἀνατολικῶν (971-?)
1118. Λέων Μελισσινός πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν Ἀνατολικῶν (the 70s-80s of the Xth century)
7. Ἀρκαδιούπολεως
- 1119-1121. Λέων β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν καὶ βασιλικῶν Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως (last quarter of the Xth century)
1122. Κατακαλὼν σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως (the last quarter of Xth century)
- 1123-1124. Ἀντρόνικος διοικητὴς καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως καὶ Μεσημβρίας (the last quarter of the Xth century)
1125. Λέων Ν., πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως καὶ Μεσημβρίας (XI c.)
8. Ἀρμενιοκοῖ
1126. Κωνσταντῖνος Ἀνεμᾶς σπαθᾶριος καὶ ἐπισκεπτίτης Ἀρμενιοκοῦ (Xth-XIth c.)
9. Ἀρτακης
1127. Σωτηρήχος παραφύλαξ Ἀρτακης (first half of the IX c.)
10. Ἀσίας
1128. Ἀποθήκης τῶν ἀνδραπόδων Ἀσίας (694-695)
1129. Τὰ βασιλικά κομμέρκια Ἀσίας (755-756 or 770-771)
11. Βασπρακανίας
- 1130-1133. Βασίλειος Ἀποκάπης βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Βασπρακανίας (?-1064)
12. Βάρνας
1134. Ἀσωτης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Βάρνας (?-1064)
13. Βελικίας
1135. Ν., πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Βελικίας (?) (last quarter of the Xth century)
14. Βερόης
- 1136-1143. Ἀνδρόνικος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Βερόης (970-971-?)

15. Βουλγαρίας

1144. Βασίλειος μοναχός, σύγγελλος και ἀναγραφεὺς Βουλγαρίας (1048-?)
1145. Νικήτας Καρίκης πρωτοπρόεδρος και δούξ Βουλγαρίας (1080s)
1146. Νικήφορος Βατάτζης πρόεδρος και δούξ Βουλγαρίας (70s of the XIth c.)
16. Δεβελτός
1147. Τὰ βασιλικά κμέρκια Δεβελτός (832-833)
1148. Κοσμάς κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού (830s-840s).
1149. Χριστοφόρος β' κανδιδάτος και κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού (830s-840s).
1150. Δαυὶδ β' σπαθάριος και κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού (870-893)
1151. Εὐστράτιος κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού (X century).
1152. Ἰωάννης? ἀσηκρήτης? και κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού (XIth century)
1153. Βασίλειος? κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού (XIth century)
- 1154-1162. Κωνσταντῖνος Συρόπουλος σπαθαροκανδιδάτος και κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού (Xth-XIth c.)
1163. Φώτιος ὕπατος και κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτού? (IXth c.)
17. Δοροστόλου / Δρίστρας
- 1164-1165 Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Δοροστόλου (971-?)
1166. Ἀρκάδιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Δοροστόλου (971-?)
1167. Βασιλιανης/ Βασιλάκης? β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (X-XI c.)
- 1168 Θεόδωρος πριμικήριος και στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (Xth -XIth c.)
1169. Θεόδωρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (Xth -XIth c.)
- 1170-1171. Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (Xth-XIth c.)
1172. Ἀνδρόνικος β' σπαθάριος? και κομμερκιάριος Δρίστρας (XIth c.)
1173. Διονύσιος σπαθαροκανδιδάτος και κομμερκιάριος Δρίστρας (XIth c.)
1174. Ἰωάννης κομμερκιάριος Δρίστρας (XIth c.)
18. Δρουγουβιτείας
1175. Βασίλειος Τζιρίθων ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου και Δρουγουβιτείας (50s-60s of the XI c.)
1176. Γρηγοῤ Σαυλοϊωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος, κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου και Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth c.)
1177. Θεόδοτος ἀσηκρήτης και κριτὴς Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth c.)
- 1178Α. Ἰωάννης Ἐλεσβάμ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος και κριτὴς Δρουγουβιτείας (XI c.)
1178. Ἰωάννης Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος, ἀσηκρήτης, κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου και Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth c.)
1179. Ν., και κριτὴς Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth century)
- 1180-1185. Ἰσαάκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Δρουγουβιτείας (Xth-XIth c.)
1186. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου και ἀναγραφεὺς Δρουγουβιτείας (X-XIth c.)
- 1187-1188. Λέων Ν., ἀσηκρήτης και κριτὴς Δρουγουβιτείας (Xth-XIth centuries)
- 1189-1197Α-Β. Μιχαὴλ Σκληρός πρωτοπρόεδρος και ἀναγραφεὺς Δρουγουβιτείας (80s of the XI c.)
1198. Χριστοφόρος ἀσηκρήτης, κριτὴς Δρουγουβιτείας (και)... (XIth c.)
- 1199-1201. Θεόδουλος πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὕπατος, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου και

ἀναγραφεὺς Δρουγουβιτείας (mid-XIth c.)

19. Δυρράχιον
1202. Νικήτας Πηγονίτης πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Δυρραχίου (1018)
1203. Μιχαὴλ Μαύριξ βεστάρχης και κατεπάνω Δυρραχίου (1065-1068)
1204. Ἀνδρόνικος τουρμάρχης Ῥαχλάου, Ἀραχιλαβης στ Δυρραχίου (XIth c.)
20. Δύσις
1205. Πανκράτης β' κανδιδάτος και κομμερκιάριος τῆς Δύσεος (X c.)
21. Εὐξείνος Πόντος
1206. Τὰ βασιλικά κομμέρκια τοῦ Εὐξείνου Πόντου (783-784)
1207. Μιχαὴλ πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὕπατος και στρατηγὸς τοῦ Εὐξείνου Πόντου (mid-XIth c.)
22. Θεοδορούπολις
- 1208-1211. Σισίνιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και κατεπάνω Θεοδορουπόλεως (971-?),
23. Θεσσαλονίκης
1212. Κατακαλὼν β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (mid-Xth c.)
1213. Δαυὶδ Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (Xth-XIth c.)
1214. Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (X c.)
1215. Ἰωάννης σπαθαροκανδιδάτος, ἀσηκρήτης και κριτὴς Βολεροῦ, Στρυμόνος και Θεσσαλονίκης (XI c.)
1216. Εὐθύμιος γενηκὸς λογαθεσίου ἄρκλας..... (X-XI c.)
1217. Τὰ βασιλικά κομμέρκια Θεσσαλονίκης (801-802)
1218. Ἀγαλλιανὸς σπαθάριος και ἑπαρχος Θεσσαλονίκης (mid-Xth c.)
1219. Ν., κομμερκιάριος και ἀβυδικὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (IXth c.)
24. Θράκης
- 1220-1223 Ἰωάννης νοτάριος και βικάριος Θράκης (VIth century)
1224. Ἀδριανὸς βικάριος Θράκης (VIth c.)
1225. Βαρδάνης πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης. (first half of the IXth c.)
1226. Ἰωάννης πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (IXth c.)
1227. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης (the 20s-40s of IXth c.)
- 1228-1229. Σισίνιος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (X c.)
1230. Ν., πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης IXth c.)
1231. Ν., πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (IXth c.)
1232. Γρηγοῤς? β' σπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης (first half of the IXth c.)
1233. Ν., και στρατηγὸς Θράκης (the 20s-40s of the IXth c.)
1234. Ν., β' σπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης (IX c.)
- 1235-1237. Ἰσαάκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης (Xth-XIth c.)
- 1238-1240. Βασίλειος Ἀργυρὸς πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης (20s-40s of the XIth c.)
1241. Χασάνης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης (the mid XIth c.)
1242. Δαυὶδ β' μανδάτωρ και ἐκ προσώπου τῆς Θράκης (IXth c.)
1243. Κατακαλὼν σπαθαροκανδιδάτος και τουρμάρχης Θράκης (XIth c.)
1244. Μιχαὴλ Κουρτίκιος τοποτηρητὴς τῆς Θράκης (X-XI c.)
- 1245-1247. Βασιλικά κομμέρκια τῆς Θράκης (808-809 or 810-811)
- 24Α. Θράκης και Μεσοποταμίας
- 1248-1249. Δαμιανὸς Δοβρομιρὸς ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος και δούξ Θράκης και

Μεσοποταμίας (971-?)

24B. Θράκης και Ἰωαννουπόλεως

1250-1260. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης και Ἰωαννουπόλεως (?-975)

1261-1265. Θεοφάνης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης και Ἰωαννουπόλεως (70s-80s of the X c.)

1266. Σταυράκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης και Ἰωαννουπόλεως (70s-80s of the X c.)

1267-1268. Νικηφόρος Ξιφίας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης και Ἰωαννουπόλεως (?-986)

1269. Ἀδράλεστος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και ἐκ προσώπου Θράκης και Ἰωαννουπόλεως (last quarter of the Xth century)

24C. Θράκης και Δρίστρας.

1270-1271. Δαυὶδ πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Θράκης και Δρίστρας (1000-?)
24D. Θράκης και Μακεδονίας

1272. Πέτρος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἱπποδρόμου, Θράκης και Μακεδονίας (XIth century)

1273. Ἰωάννης Ῥαδηνὸς βεστάρχης, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου, Θράκης και Μακεδονίας (70s-80s of the XI century)

1274. Στέφανος ἀσηκρήτης και κριτὴς Θράκης και Μακεδονίας (XIth century)

1275. Νικόλαος Ζουνάρης κριτὴς Θράκης και Μακεδονίας (last quarter, XI c.)

25. Θρακησίων

1276. Σισίνιος χαρτουλάριος τῶν Θρακισιάνων (VIIIth century)

1277. Ἰωάννης ? πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς τῶν Θρακησίων (IXth -Xth centuries)

1278. Ἰωάννης βεστάρχης, μέγας χαρτουλάριος, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου και τῶν Θρακησίων (the 70s of the XI century)

1279. N., ... και στρατηγὸς τῶν Θρακησίων (IX c.)

26. Insulae (Νῆσοι)

1280-1281. Theodorus Praefectus Insularum (Vth-VIth centuries)

27. Ἰταλίας

1282. Μιχαὴλ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος και κατεπάνω Ἰταλίας (X c.)

28 Ἰωαννουπόλεως

1283-1288. Κατακαλὼν β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Ἰωαννουπόλεως (971-?)

1289-1290. Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Ἰωαννουπόλεως (970s)

28A. Ἰωαννουπόλεως και Δοροστόλου

1292-1310A. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Ἰωαννουπόλεως και Δοροστόλου (?- 975)

29. Καπαδοκίας

1311-1312. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Καπαδοκίας (end of the Xth century)

30. Κερασούντος

1313. Κοσμᾶς ἀπο ὑπάτων και γενικὸς κομμερκιάριος Κερασούντος (689-690)

31. Κιβεριώτων

1314. Νικηφόρος β' σπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς τῶν Κιβηριοτῶν (IXth century)

32. Λογγοβαρδίας

1315. Στέφανος Σερβλίας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και κομμερκιάριος Λογγοβαρδίας (XI c.)

33. Μακεδονίας

1316-1318. N., β' σπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (IXth c.)

1319. Θεόκτιστος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (mid-IXth c.)

1320. N., πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (IXth c.)

1321. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (IXth-Xth c.)

1322. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth c.)

1323-1324. Σωτήριχος πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth c.)

1325. Γουδέλιος ? β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (X-XI c.)

1326. Θεοφύλακτος πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth-XIth c.)

1327. Ἰσαάκιος πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (XIth c.)

1328. Ῥωμανὸς πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth c.)

1329-1332. Ῥωμανὸς ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (X c.)

1333. N., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth-XIth c.)

1334. N., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (X c.)

1335. N., πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου και στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (X c.)

1336. Δοβρυνος or Δοβρυλος N., στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (XIth c.)

1337. Ἰωάννης β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος και ἐκ προσώπου Μακεδονίας (last quarter IXth c.)

1338. Θεόφιλος πρωτονοτάριος Μακεδονίας (mid-IXth c.)

33A. Μακεδονίας και Ἀδριανουπόλεως

1339. Στέφανος πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, και πραιτὼρ Μακεδονίας και

Ἀδριανουπόλεως (third quarter of the XIth c.)

34. Μεσημβρίας

1340. Ἀλέξιος β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος και κλεισουργάρχης Μεσημβρίας (X c.)

1341. Βασίλειος ? β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος και κλεισουργάρχης Μεσημβρίας (IX-X c.)

1342. Γεώργιος β' σπαθάριος και κλεισουργάρχης Μεσημβρίας (IXth-Xth c.)

1343. Παγκράτιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας και κλεισουργάρχης Μεσημβρίας (Xth century)

1344-1345. Νικόλαος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος και στρατηγὸς Μεσημβρίας (X c.)

1346. Βλαδτζερτης / Βαλατζέρτης μάγιστρος και κατεπάνω Μεσημβρίας (60s-70s of the XI c.)

1347. N., σπαθαροκανδιδάτος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτρικλίνου και ἀναγραφεὺς Μεσημβρίας ὁ ἄνθρωπος τοῦ βασιλέως (XIth c.)

35. Μεσοποταμίας

1348. N., και στρατηγὸς Μεσοποταμίας (IXth-Xth c.)

1349. Μιχαὴλ βεστάρχης και κατεπάνω Μεσοποταμίας (1060s-1070s)

1350-1352. N., β' σπαθάριος και ἐκ προσώπου Μεσοποταμίας (IX c.)

1353-1355. Λέων β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος και τουρμάρχης Μεσοποταμίας (X c.)

36. Μιτυλήνης

1356. Ἰωάννης N., κριτὴς και μέγας κουράτωρ Μιτυλήνης (XIth c.)

37. Μογλενῶν

1357. Ἰωσήφ Μανιάκης τουρμάρχης τῶν Μογλενῶν (XIth c.)

38. Μοσυνόπολις

1358. Εὐστάθιος πρωτοσπαθάριος και τοποτηρητὴς Μοσυνόπολεως (XIth c.)

39. Μώρρας και Φιλίππουπόλεως

1359. Ῥοῦσος σπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Μώρρας καὶ Φιλιππουπόλεως (XI c.)
40. Νέος Στρυμῶν
- 1360-1365. Στέφανος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τοῦ Νέος Στρυμόνος (971-976)
41. Νικοπόλων
- 1366 Ἰωάννης Πηγονίτης στρατηγὸς Νικοπόλων (second half of the XIth c.)
42. Νίσος
- 1367-1367A. Νικηφόρος Δεκανὸς κουροπαλάτης καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Νίσος (XI-XII c.)
43. Ὀφίκιον
- 1368-1369. Ν., .. καὶ κόμης τοῦ θεοφυλάκτου β' Ὀφικίου (VIII-IXth c.)
1370. Λέων Περινὸς τοποτηρητὴς τοῦ Ὀφικίου (XIth c.)
1371. Νικήτας πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου, τοῦ βήλου καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς τοῦ Ὀφικίου (XIth century)
44. Ὀπτιμάτων
1372. Κωνσταντῖνος βεστάρχης καὶ κριτὴς τῶν Ὀπτιμάτων (third quarter of the XIth c.)
49. Παραδουνάβου
- 1373-1375. Δημήτριος Κατακαλὼν ἀνθύπατος πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβου (50s of the XIth century)
1376. Θεόδωρος Πηγονίτης πατρίκιος, ἀνθύπατος, βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβιτον (1050s-1060s)
1377. Συμεὼν βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβου (1060s)
- 1378-1379. Μιχαὴλ βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβου (60s of the XI c.),
50. Πατζινακίας
1380. Ἰωάννης Κεγένης μάγιστρος καὶ ἄρχων Πατζινακίας (1050-1051)
51. Παφλαγονίας
1381. Ῥωμανὸς πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Παφλαγονίας (XIth c.)
52. Πελοποννήσου καὶ Ἑλλάδος
- 1382-1383. Λέων Νικερίτης πρωτοπρόεδρος καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Πελοποννήσου καὶ Ἑλλάδος (last quarter of the XIth century)
53. Πλίσκοβα
1384. Φιλόθεος Φραγκοπούλος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς Πλίσκοβα (XIth c.)
54. Πρεσθλάβας - Πρεσθλαβίτζας
- 1385-1392. Ἀέτιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Περσθλαβίτζας (first quarter of the XI c.)
- 1393-1396. Ἀνδρόνικος Δούκας πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς μεγάλης Πραισθλάβας or Πραισθλαβίτζας (1030s-1040s)
- 1397- 1403A. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Περσκλάβας (X-XI c.)
- 1404-1405. Ἰωάννης Μαλέας πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Περσθλάβας or Περσθλαβίτζας (first half of the XIth c.)
1406. Ἰωάννης Μαλέσης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσθλαβίτζας (1030s-1040s)
- 1407-1413. Κωνσταντῖνος Καραντηνὸς πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς Περδσλάβας (first quarter of the XIth c.)
- 1414-1419. Λέων Πηγονίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσθλαβίτζας (mid-XI c.)
1420. Μάλις πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσκλαβίτζας (XI c.)
- 1421-1422. Μελίας πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσθλαβίτζας (XI c.)

55. Ραιδεστός
1423. Δαυὶδ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ βασιλικὸς (?) Ῥαιδεστός (X c.)
56. Ῥυνδάκος
- 1424-1426. Θεοφάνηςκαὶ διοικιτὴς τοῦ Ῥυνδάκου καὶ τῶν Ἀνατολικῶν (XI c.)
57. Σάμος
- 1427-1428. Θεόφυλος Ἀγιοζαχαρίτης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Σάμος (1030s-1040s)
- 1429-1430. Χριστόδουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Σάμος (Xth-XIth c.)
58. Σελευκείας
1431. Ἰωάννης ἀσηκρητὴς καὶ κρητὴς Σελευκείας (Xth-XIth c.)
59. Στρυμόνος καὶ Βολεροῦ
1432. Συμεὼν β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν κρητὴς Στρυμόνος καὶ Βολεροῦ (X-XI c.)
60. Σωτηρουπόλεως καὶ Ἀνακουπίας
1433. Νικόλαος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτριγκλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς Σωτηρουπόλεως καὶ Ἀνακουπίας (XI c.)
61. Στρουμίτζας
1434. Φαραζμάνης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Στρουμίτζας (mid-XI c.)
62. Στρυμῶνος
1435. Λύκαστος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Στρυμῶνος (Xth century)
63. Σωξοπόλεος
1436. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθάριος καὶ κλεισουριάρχης Σωξοπόλεως (second quarter of the IXth century)
64. Φιλιππουπόλεως
1437. Κωνσταντῖνος Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Φιλιππουπόλεως (Xth-XIth c.)
1438. Δημήτριος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Φιλιππουπόλεως (Xth-XIth c.)
- 1439-1440. Ἀργυρὸς Καρατζᾶς πρωτοκουροπαλάτης καὶ δοῦξ Φιλιππουπόλεως (1092-1095)
65. Χερσῶνος
1441. Λέων (?) β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Χερσῶνος (X-XI c.)
1442. Ἰωάννης (?) κουμμερκιάριος Χερσῶνος (IX-X c.)
- 1442A. Σέργιος κανδίδας καὶ κουμμερκιάριος Χερσονῶς (IX c.)
66. Χρυσοπόλεως
1443. Ἰωάννης χαρτουλάριος, γεννηματικὸς Χρυσοπόλεως καὶ τῶν πόρος (X c.)

B. Without toponyms

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1. Δοῦξ-κατεπάνω

1444. Ἀνδρόνικος Φιλοκάλης βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω (1060s-1070s)
- 1445-1446. Βαρδάνιος Βαλανέας δισύπατος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s)
1447. Βαρδάνιος Βαλανέας πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)
1448. Βασιλάκης πρωτοπρόεδρος καὶ δοῦξ (?-1078)
- 1449-1451. Βασίλειος Ἀποκάπης μάγιστρος καὶ δοῦξ (1064-1065)
1452. Βρυένιος Βατάτζης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)
1453. Γεώργιος Μονομαχάτος μάγιστρος καὶ δοῦξ (1070s)
- 1454-1461. Γρηγόριος Μαυροκατακαλὼν ἀνθύπατος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s)

1462. Δημήτριος Κατακαλὼν βέστης, ἀνθύπατος πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s)
 1463. Ἰωάννης Γαβαλᾶς βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω (third quarter, XI c.)
 1464. Ἰωάννης Συναδηνὸς κουροπαλάτης καὶ δοῦξ (late XI c.)
 1465-1466. Κατακαλὼν / Καμένος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)
 1467-1474. [Γριγόριος] Κουρκούας δοῦξ (late XI c.)
 1475-1478. Κωνσταντῖνος Δαλασηνὸς πρόεδρος καὶ δοῦξ (1050s-1060s)
 1479-1482. Κωνσταντῖνος Οὐμπερτοπούλος (1080s-1090s)
 1483. Λανδούλφος σεβατός καὶ δοῦξ (XI-XII c.)
 1484. Μιχαὴλ Μαύριξ μάγιστρος καὶ κατεπάνω (1068-1070)
 1485-1486. Νικήτας Γλαβᾶς μάγιστρος καὶ κατεπάνω (1060s-1070s)
 1487. Νικηφόρος Βατάτζης βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω (1060s)
 1488-1489. Νικηφόρος Σαραντηνὸς πρόεδρος, μάγιστρος καὶ κατεπάνω (last third, XI c.)
 1490-1491. Ῥωμανὸς Διογένης βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)
 1492-1493. Σαμουὴλ Ἀλουσιάνος πρόεδρος καὶ δοῦξ (early 1070s).
 1493A. Στέφανος Κοντοστέφανος νωβελλίσimos καὶ δοῦξ (before 1094)
 1494. Ν., Γλαβᾶς βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω (1060s)
2. Στρατηγὸς
- 1495-1502. Ἀέτιος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (first quarter of the XI c.)
 1503. Ἀναστάσιος Πολὺς πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid-XI c.)
 1504. Ἀνδρόνικος Ν., δισύπατος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half of the XI c.)
 1505-1509. Ἀντρόνικος στρατηγὸς (second half of the XI c.)
 1510-1516. Ἀρκάδιος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1517-1521. Βαρδάνιος Βαλνέας πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid-XI c.)
 1522. Βάρδας Καζάνης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half, XI c.)
 1523. Γεώργιος Κακίκης στρατηγὸς (second half of XI c.)
 1524-1525. Γρηγόριος Ἀλανὸς πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half of XI c.)
 1526. Γρηγόριος Κλάδων πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s-1060s)
 1527-1527A. Γρηγόριος Μαυροκατακαλὼν πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s-1060s)
 1528. Γρηγόριος Ν., πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1529. Δημήτριος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1530-1531. Δημήτριος Κατακαλὼν πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s)
 1532. Εὐστάθιος Ἀλακσεὺς σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XIc.)
 1533. Θεόδωρος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1534. Θεόδωρος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1535. Θεόδωρος Κασνίτζης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1536-1538. Θεόδωρος Κασσητεῖρας πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1539-1544. Θεοδώρητος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1545. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (IX c.)
 1546. Ἰωάννης Μαλέσης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1030s-1040s)
 1547. Ἰωάννης Νεστόγγος πρόεδρος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1070-1080s)
 1548. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (end of the XI c.)
 1549. Κωνσταντῖνος Διογένης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid-XI c.)
 1550-1550A. Κωνσταντῖνος Κασσιανὸς πρωτοσπαθᾶριος-ὑπάτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1030s-1050s)
 1551. Κωνσταντῖνος Ξαντᾶς πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s)

1552. Κωνσταντῖνος Ὠπὸς πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1030s-1040s)
 1553. Κωνσταντῖνος ὑπάτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid of the XI c.)
 1554. Κωνσταντῖνος ὑπάτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (IX c.)
 1555. Λέων πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1556. Λέων Γουδέλης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid-XI c.)
 1557-1558. Λέων Κρατερὸς σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1559. Λέων Πάρδος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1560-1565. Λέων Πηγονίτης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1566-1567. Λέων Πιλένης βεστάρχης καὶ στρατηγὸς (third quarter, XI c.)
 1568. Μαρνανὸς πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1569. Μιχαὴλ β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1570. Μιχαὴλ Στυπιδιώτης β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1571. Μιχαὴλ Ταρχανειώτης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half of the XI c.)
 1572-1573. Μιχαὴλ Ταρχανειώτης πατρίκιος, πρωτοανθύπατος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1080s-1090s)
 1574-1575. Μιχαὴλ β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1576-1578. Νικήτας Κασνίτζης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1579. Νικήτας / Νικηφόρος Ἰασίτης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1580. Νικηφόρος Φιλοκάλης στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1581. Νικόλαος Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1582. Νικόλαος (?) πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (50s-60s of the XI c.)
 1583. Νικόλαος β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1584. Ῥωμανὸς πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1585. Ῥωμανὸς Ν., πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1586. Στέφανος στρατηγὸς (last quarter of the X c.)
 1587-1589. Ταυρίνος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 1590-1594. Τζυορβανέλης Ἀποχαρπης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (ca. 1000)
 1595-1596. Βάλς or Βαλσάρ..... καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1597. Ν., Γοτανιτζης . . . καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1598-1600. Λέων or Θεόδωρος Ν., σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 1601. Ν., Μαλέσης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος-ὑπάτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
3. Κλεισουριάρχης
1602. Καλοκυρὸς Σαρακηνόπουλος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ κλεισουριάρχης (X-XI c.)
4. Τουρμάρχης
1603. Ἰωσήφ Ν., τουρμάρχης (XI c.)
 1604. Κωνσταντῖνος τουρμάρχης καὶ κουμμερκιάρης.... (X c.)
 1605. Λέων Ν., σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)
 1606. Λυκανδὸς σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)
 1607. Νικήτας β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)
 1608. Νικόλαος τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)
 1609. Στέφανος β' σπαθᾶριος καὶ τουρμάρχης (VIII-IX c.)
 1610-1611. Χριστοφόρος β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)
 1612. Χριστοφόρος Ν., β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)
5. Κουμμερκιάρης
1613. Ἀγαθόνικος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ κουμμερκιάρης (X-XI c.)
 1614. Εὐστράτιος Ῥωμανάκης κομμερκιάρης (XI c.)

1615. Καλοκύρις Ν., κομμερκιάριος ? (X-XI c.)

6. Κόμης

1616. Θεόδωρος Φιλιππούπουλος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κόμης

1617. Κάλος Μαῦρος κόμης (XI c.)

Chapter Five

Ecclesiastical Administration

A. In the Capital

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1. Patriarchal Seals

1618. Ἰωάννης Η' (21. 01. 837 - 04. 03. 843).

1619. Θεοφύλακτος (933-956)

1620. Νικάλαος γ' (1084 - 1111)

1621. Λουκάς (1157 - 1170)

1622. Γεώργιος Β' (10. 09. 1191 - 07. 07. 1198)

1623. Μακάριος (June 1377 - July 1379; July 1390 - January 1391)

1624. Ν., XII-XIII c.

2. Offices at the Patriarchate

a. χαρτουφύλαξ

1625. Σαμουήλ Μαυροπόδης χαρτοφύλαξ (second half of the XII c.)

b. σκευοφύλαξ

1626. Ἰωάννης Παντεχνῆς σκευοφύλαξ (50s-60s of the XII c.)

3. Offices at the Patriarchal Chancery

a. νοτάριος

1627-1631. Ἰωάννης κουβουκλήσιος καὶ νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

b. χαρτουλάριος

1632. Ἰωάννης δαάκωνος τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας καὶ χαρτουλάριος (second half XI c.)

1633. Χριστοφόρος β' κληρικὸς καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

4. Patriarchal Titles

a. κουβουκλήσιος

1634. Βασίλειος κουβουκλήσιος καὶ καθηγούμενος (IX-X c.)

1635. Λέων κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

1636. Νικήτας κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

1637-1638. Νικήτας κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

1639. Νικήτας (μοναχὸς) καὶ κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

1640. Σισίνιος κληρικὸς καὶ κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

b. σύγκελλος / πρωτοσύγκελλος

1641. Ἀπλασάκης πρωτοσύγκελλος (third quarter of the XI c.)

1642. Θεοδούλος μοναχὸς καὶ σύγκελλος (third quarter of the XI c.)

1643. Στέφανος πρωτοσύγκελλος (third quarter of the XI c.)

5. Churches and their officies in capital

a. ἐκκλησέκτικοι

1644-1648. ἐκκλησέκτικοι τῆς Ἀγίας Σοφίας (XII-XIII c.)

b. τῆς Νέας

1649. Βασίλειος ραΐκτωρ καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας (IX-X c.)

1650. Θεοδούλος μοναχὸς, σύγκελλος καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας (third quarter of the XI c.)

1651. Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος, κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας (X-XI c.)

6. Monasteries in the capital and unspecified locations

1652. Λάυρας τοῦ κῦρ Ἀντωνίου(XIc.)

1653. Μονῆς τῆς Θεοτόκος τῆς Βλαχερνίτισσα (XII v.)

1654. Μονῆς τῆς Θεοτόκος τῆς Περίβλεπτος (second half of the XII c.)

1655. Θεόδοτος ἡγούμενος (IX c.)

B. Dioceses and Monasteries in the Provinces

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1. Ἀβύδος

1656-1657. Νικόλαος Ἀβύδος (XI c.)

2. Ἀγχιάλου

1658-1662. Θεόδωρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀγχιάλου (second half of the XI c.)

1663-1665. Νικηφόρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀγχιάλου (1070s-1090s)

1666. Στέφανος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀγχιάλου(second half of the XI c.)

3. Ἀδριανούπολεως

1667. Νικόλαος μητροπολίτης Ἀδριανουπόλεως (970s)

1668. Γρηγόριος or Πανθεριος μητροπολίτης Ἀδριανουπόλεως(XI century)

1669. Seals of a metropolitan of Adrianopolis ? (XI c.)

1670. Seals of a metropolitan of Adrianopolis ? (XI c.)

1671. Εὐστάθιος μητροπολίτης Ἀδριανουπόλεως (XII c.)

1672. Ν., metropolitan of Adrianopolis ? (XII c.)

4. Αἴνιος

1673. Ἀνδρόνικος Αἴνιος (XI-XII c.)

5. Ἀρκαδιούπολεως

1674. Στέφανος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως (X-XI c.)

6. Ἀχριδός

1675-1676. Θωμᾶς ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (X-XI c.)

1677. Θεόδωρος ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (XI-XII c.)

1678-1679. Εὐστάθιος ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (X-XI c.)

7. Βελεβουσδίου

1680. Ἰωάννης ἐπίσκοπος Βελεβουσδίου (second half of the XII c.)

8. Βελικίας

1681 Βασίλειος ἐπίσκοπος Βελικίας (X-XI c.)

1682. Στέφανος ἐπίσκοπος Βελικίας (X-XI c.)

9. Βερόης

1683-1684. Χριστοφόρος πρόεδρος Βερόης (XI-XII c.)

10. Βουλγαρίας

1685. Ἡσαΐας ἐπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (IX c.).

1686-1699. Γεώργιος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (?-893).

1700. Ἰωάννης μοναχὸς καὶ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (second half of the XI c.).

1701. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (second half of the XII c.)

1702. Γρηγόριος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (XIV c.)

11. Βρύσεως

1703. Νικηφόρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βρύσεως (X-XI c.)

12. Γαγγρῶν
1704. Μιχαήλ ὁ τοῦ Γαγγρῶν (XII c.)
13. Γάνος
1705. Θεοδώρητος πρῶτος τοῦ Γάνου (XI c.)
14. Δαφνί
1706. Ἡ Θεοτόκος ὁ Δαφνίν (XI-XII c.)
15. Δεβελτός
1707-1708. Κωνσταντῖνος ἐπίσκοπος Δεβελτοῦ (X-XI c.)
16. Δρίστρας
1709-1710. Λέοντιος μοναχός καὶ ἐπίσκοπος Δρίστρας (50s of the XI c.)
1711-1715. Χριστοφόρος μητροπολίτης Δρίστρας καὶ πρωτοσύγκελλος (80s of the XI c.)
17. Ἐφέσος
1716. Θεοφύλακτος σύγκελλος καὶ μητροπολίτης Ἐφέσου (second half of the XI c.)
1716A. Φιλούμενος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἐφέσου (VII-VIII c.)
18. Εὐθυμίου τοῦ Μεγάλου
1717. Τῆς λαύρας τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐθυμίου τοῦ Μεγάλου (XII c.)
19. Εὐχαίτα
1718. Φιλόθεως σύγκελλος καὶ μητροπολίτης Εὐχαίτων (70s of the Xth c.)
20. Θεοβουλεία
1719-1720. Νικόλαος ἐπίσκοπος Θεοβουλεία (second half of the IXth c.)
21. Θετταλῶν
1721. Λέων Ἰταλιώτης θύτης Θετταλῶν (XII c.)
22. Ἰωαννουπόλεως
1722-1724. Στέφανος μητροπολίτης Ἰωαννουπόλεως (the 70s of the X century)
23. Κουτζιάγρων
1725. Στυλιανός ἐπίσκοπος Κουτζιάγρων (early X c.)
24. Κυρικῶν
1726-1727. Λέων μαίιστωρ τῆς σχολῇ τῶν κηρύκω (XI c.)
25. Κωνσταντείας
1728-1729. Ν., πρόεδρος Κωνσταντείας (XI-XII c.)
1730. Μεθόδιος ἐπίσκοπος Κωνσταντείας (X-XI c.)
26. Μαγνησίας
1730A. Βασίλειος ἐπίσκοπος Μαγνησίας (X-XI c.)
27. Μεσημβρίας
1731-1735. Ἰλλαρίων ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Μεσημβρίας (XI c.)
1736. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Μεσημβρίας XI c.
1737. Μιχαήλ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Μεσημβρίας (second half of the XI c.)
28. Μύρων
1737A [3125]. Φίλιππος ποιμενάρχος Μύρων (XI c.)
29. Νέων Πατρων
1738. Κοσμᾶς μητροπολίτης Νέων Πατρῶν (XI c.)
30. Νικοπόλων
1739. Λέων ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Νικοπόλεως (IX c.)
31. Νίσος
1740. Συμεὼν ἐπίσκοπος Νίσος (XI c.)
32. Παπικίος
1741. Ν., πρῶτος τοῦ Παπικίου (XI c.)

33. Προύσης
1742. Κοσμᾶς ἐπίσκοπος Προύσης (XI c.)
34. Ῥωσίας
1742A. Κωνσταντῖνος πρόεδρος Ῥωσίας (1156-1159)
35. Σεβαστείας
1743. Θεόδοτος μητροπολίτης Σεβαστείας (XI c.)
36. Σεβάστις
1744. Λέοντι Σεβάστις (XI c.)
37. Σεβεριάδος
1745-1747. Γρηγόριος ἐπίσκοπος Σεβεριάδος (X-XI c.)
38. Σέρραι
1748. Κωνσταντῖνος μητροπολίτης Σερρῶν (X c.)
39. Σοφρώνης τοῦ Ξυλιυίτου
1749. Μονὴ Σοφρώνης τοῦ Ξυλιυίτου πατρίκιος (X c.)
40. Σωζοπόλεος
1750. Γερμανός ἐπίσκοπος Σωζοπόλεος (IX-X c.)
1751. Ν., ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Σ.....ολιτων (X c.)
41. Τραπεζοῦντος
1752. Φωτεινός ἐπίσκοπος Τραπεζοῦντος (IX c.)
42. Τριαδίτζης
1753. Νικήτας ἐπίσκοπος Τριαδίτζης (XI-XI c.)
43. Φιλιππούπολεως
1754-1754A. Βασίλειος μητροπολίτης Φιλιππουπόλεως (XI c.)
1755. Θεόγνωστος μητροπολίτης Φιλιππουπόλεως (X-XI c.)
1756. Κωνσταντῖνος μητροπολίτης Φιλιππουπόλεως (XI c.)
44. Χρυσοκεφάλος
1757-1759. Μονῆς τῆς Θεοτόκος τῆς Χρυσοκεφαλίου (XI c.)

C. Seals of Prelates of unspecified sees

583

1760. Nonella bishop (VII c.)
1761. Ἀνδρέας μητροπολίτης (VII c.)
1762-1763. Κωνσταντῖνος μητροπολίτης (X-XI c.)
1764. Νικόλαος ἐπίσκοπος. (X c.)
1765. Νικόλαος μητροπολίτης (X-XI c.)
1766. Ν., πρεσβύτερος, ἡγούμενος ... (XI c.)
1767. Βασίλειος πρεσβύτερος ... (X- XI c.)
1768. Ν., ποιμὴν (XI c.)
1769. Μονῆς τῆς XI c.
1770. Στέφανος ἡγούμενος (X-XI c.)

D. Monks and Clerics

587

1771. Γαβριήλ μονοαμαρτολός (last quarter of the IX c.)
1772. Εὐστάθιος ἀμαρτωλός (last quarter of the IX c.)
1773. Ἰωσήφ ἀμαρτωλός (XI c.)

1774. Λέων ἀμαρτωλός (XI c.)
 1775-1777. Γρηγόριος β' κληρικός (X-XI c.)
 1778. Ἀλύπιος μοναχός (XI c.)
 1779. Ἀρσένιος μοναχός καὶ β' κληρικός (X-XI c.)
 1780. Ἀρσένιος Τζαμπλάκων μοναχός (XIV c.)
 1781-1782. Θεόκτιστος μοναχός (X-XI c.)
 1783. Λέοντιος μοναχός (XI c.)
 1784. Μαρία μοναχή (XI c.)
 1785. Ξένη πρωτοβεστιάριά μοναχή (XI c.)
 1786. Νικόλαος Πεντακτένης μοναχός..... ? (XI c.)
 1787. Νικόλαος μοναχός (IX-X c.)
 1788. Νικόλαος μοναχός (XI c.)
 1789. Πέτρος μοναχός (XI c.)
 1790. Στέφανος μοναχός (XI c.)
 1791. Συμεών μοναχός (XI c.)

E. Miscellaneous offices and titles

593

1792. Ἀντώνιος μοναχός καὶ πρεσβύτερος (last quarter of the IX c.)
 1793. Ἰωάννης ὁ τοῦ Ἀλεξιῶτου πρεσβύτερος (XI c.)
 1794. Νικόλαος πρεσβύτερος (XI c.)
 1795. Γρηγόριος Ἀγκυρας (end of the XI c.)
 1796. Ἀτανάσιος μοναχός (X-XI c.)

Chapter Six

Seals of Private Persons

A. With patronyms

599

1797. Ἄγγελος Μιχαήλ (XII c.)
 1798-1799. Ἀγγελίνα Κομνηνή [Μαρία] wife or sister of the sebastokrator (XII c.)
 1800-1802. Ἀγιοζαχαρίτης Στυλιανός (XI c.)
 1803. Ἀγιοθεοδωρίτης Μιχαήλ (XII c.)
 1804-1806. Ἀγιοστεφανίτης Θεόδωρος (XII c.)
 1807-09. Ἀγιοστεφανίτης Κατακαλὼν (XI-XII c.)
 1809A. Ἀδριανὸς Ζαχαρίας (late XI c.)
 1810. Ἀηλγαζῆς Δημήτριος (XIII c.)
 1811. Ἀλανος Γρηγόρηος (X c.)
 1812. Ἀλτούμης Ἰωάννης (XIII c.)
 1813-1815. Ἀλοπὸς Κωνσταντῖνος (last quarter of XI c.)
 1816. Ἀμασειάνος Ἰωάννης (last quarter of XI c.)
 1817. Ἀπλουχεῖρας Ῥωμανός (last quarter of the XI c.)
 1818. Ἀριέβης (late XI c.)
 1819. Ἀριστηνὰς Μαρία (late XI c.)
 1819A. Ἀρβαντῖνος Ἰωάννης (XI-XII c.)

- 1819B Ἀρσακίδης Γρηγόριος (the last quarter of the XIth c.)
 1820-1821. Ἀρσακίδης Τιρκάνιος (second half of XI c.)
 1822. Ἀστραμηνος Λέων (XII-XIII c.)
 1823. Ἀτζίμης Ἰωάννης (XIII-XIV c.)
 1824. Ἀττικός Λέων (XII c.)
 1825. Βαάνισσα Μαρία (IX c.)
 1826. Abraham bar Bakos (XI c.)
 1827. Βαλβυνος Ἐυστάθιος (second half of the XI c.)
 1828-1829. Βασκινὸς Γρηγόριος (end of the X c.)
 1830-1831 Βατάτζης Βρυένιος (second half of the XI c.)
 1832. Βατάτζης Γεώργιος (late XI c.)
 1833-1834 Βατάτζης Ἰωάννης (XII-XIII c.)
 1835. Βατάτζης Ἰωσήφ (XII-XIII c.)
 1836. Βατάτζης Ν., (XI c.)
 1837-1838. Βατάτζης Ν., (XII-XIII c.)
 1839. Βεριδάρης Λέων (first quarter of the XII c.)
 1840-1841. Βῆκενης Χουσένης (second half XI c.)
 1842-1850. Βῆκενης Παγκράτιος (second half, XI c.)
 1851. Βερροῖτης Κωνσταντῖνος (XI-XII c.)
 1852-1853. Bodinus Georgius (XII c.)
 1854-55. Βραχάμιος Βασίλειος (second half, XI c.)
 1856. Γαβρᾶς Ν., (XII-XIII c.)
 1857-1858. Γιαγούπης (XII c.)
 1859. Γλαβᾶς Λέων (second half, XI c.)
 1860-1861. Γλυκὸς Βασίλειος (XI-XII c.)
 1862-1863. Gravina Alexander (XII c.)
 1864-1865. Γυμνὸς Νικόλαος (second half, XI c.)
 1866. Δαλασηνὸς Ἀδριανός (XI c.)
 1867. Δεκανός Γεώργιος (XI-XII c.)
 1868. Δελφινᾶς ? Κωνσταντῖνος (second half, XI c.)
 1869. Δοξαπάτρος Ν., (XI-XII c.)
 1870-1871. Δούκαινα Ἄννα (XII c.)
 1872-1873. Δούκαινα Εὐφροσύνη (?-1185)
 1874. Δούκαινα Πατρίκια (XI c.)
 1875. Δούκας Γρηγόριος (XI/XII c.)
 1876. Εἰρινικός Θεόδωρος (second half, XI c.)
 1877. Ἐλικιότης Ἀργυρὸς (second half, XI c.)
 1878-1879. Εξαβούλιτης Βασίλειος (second half, XI c.)
 1880. Ἐξουβίτος Θεόφυλακτος (XI c.)
 1881. Ἐπικερνης Δημήτριος (XII c.)
 1882. Εὐγενιώτης Ν., (XII-XIII c.)
 1883-1885. Εὐλόγιος Μωσῆς (XII c.)
 1886-1887. Εὐστράτιος Μιχαήλ (late XI c.)
 1890. Ζωναρᾶς Χριστοφόρος (XI-XII c.)
 1891-1899. Θεοδωροκάνος Κωνσταντῖνος (second half, XI c.)
 1900. Θεοφιλοπούλος (XIII c.)
 1901. Ἰασιτηνὴ Εἰρήνη (XII c.)

1902. Ίκανάτος Λέων (late XI c.)
 1903. Ίσης Ίωάννης (XII c.)
 1904-1906. Καζάνης N., (XI c.)
 1907. Καινοχωρίτης Μιχαήλ (second half of XI c.)
 1908. Καματηρός Ήπιφάνιος (late XI c.)
 1909. Καματηρός Μιχαήλ (XII c.)
 1910. Καναβούτζης (XI-XII c.)
 1911-1912. Καντακουζηνός Ίωάννης (XII c.)
 1913. Καππαδόκης Γεώργιος (XII c.)
 1914. Καππαδόκης Κωνσταντῖνος (XII c.)
 1915-20. Καραντηνῆ Άννα (XI c.)
 1921. Καραντηνός Μιχαήλ (XI-XII c.)
 1922. Καραντηνός Συμεών (XI c.)
 1923. Καριανίτης Ίωαννης (late XI c.)
 1924. Κασταμονίτης Κωνσταντῖνος (late XI c.)
 1925. Κασταμονίτης Νικήτας (late XI c.)
 1926. Κίνδυνος Νικήτας (late XI c.)
 1927. Κίνναμος Ίωάννης (second half of XIth c.)
 1928. Κίνναμος Ίωάννης (second half, XII c.)
 1929. Κλωνάρης Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XII c.)
 1930. Κολιές Ίωάννης (XI c.)
 1931. Κομνηνῆ Θεοδώρα (last quarter of XII c.)
 1932. Κομνηνός Ἀλέξιος (XII c.)
 1932A. Κομνηνός, Ἀδριανός (1087-1103)
 1933. Κομνηνός Ἀνδρόνικος (1133-1176)
 1934. Κομνηνός Ίωάννης (XII c.)
 1935. Κομνηνός Ίωάννης υἱός τοῦ σεβαστοκράτορος (before 1176)
 1936. Κομνηνός Ίωάννης υἱός τοῦ σεβαστοκράτορος Ἀνδρόνικος Κομνηνός (end of the XII c.)
 1937. Κομνηνός Κωνσταντῖνος (XII c.)
 1938. Κομνηνός Νικηφόρος (XII c.)
 1939. Κομνηνός ? Νικηφόρος (XI c.)
 1940. Κομνηνός Δούκας Ίσαάκιος (XII c.)
 1941. Κομνηνός Δούκας Μανουήλ (XII c.)
 1942-1944. Κομνηνός Κωντοστεφάνος Ἀλέξιος (XII c.)
 1945. Κωντοστεφάνος ? Νικηφόρος (second half of XII c.)
 1946. Κωντοστεφάνος Νικηφόρος (second half of XII c.)
 1947. Κοσκινᾶς Βασίλειος (second half of XI c.)
 1948-1949. Κοστομύρης Θεόδωρος (XII c.)
 1950-1951. Κουρκούας Γριγόριος (second half of XI c.)
 1952-1955. Κουρτίκιος Βασίλειος (late XI c.)
 1956. Κουρτίκιος Κωνσταντῖνος (second half of XI c.)
 1957. Κο..ουλῖτος Λέων (XI c.)
 1958-1963. Κυρίτζης Ἀναστάσιος (second half of XI c.)
 1963A. Λαγωδιάτης ? Θεόδωρος (XI c.)
 1964. Λαμψιταιώτης ? Ίωάννης (XI c.)
 1965. Λαπαρδᾶς? Ίωάννης (XI c.)

1966. Λαχανᾶς Ίωάννης (XII c.)
 1967. Λαχανᾶς Μανουήλ (XII c.)
 1968. Λογαρριαστής Βασίλειος (XI c.)
 1969. Λογαριαστής Συμεών (last quarter of the XI c.)
 1970. Λωπακᾶς Νικήτας (late XI c.)
 1971. Μαγγάνης Γεώργιος (last quarter of XI c.)
 1972. Μαδαρίτης Δαλασηνός Χριστοφόρος (XIII-XIV c.)
 1973. Μαλεῖνος Στέφανος (late XI c.)
 1974. Μακρεμβολίτης Ίωάννης (XI c., second half)
 1975-1977. Μοναστρᾶς Μιχαήλ (XI c.)
 1978. Μανιάκης Γεώργιος (second half of XI c.)
 1979. Μανιάκης N., (XI-XII c.)
 1980. Μαρσίνος Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)
 1981. Μαρούλης Ίωάννης (1143-1180)
 1982. Μαυροθεόδωρος Λέων (last quarter, XI c.)
 1983-1984. Μαυροκατακαλὼν Γρηγόριος (last quarter of XI c.)
 1985. Μαβροκατακαλὼν Δημητριος (second half of the XI c.)
 1986-1988. Μαυροκατακαλὼν Νικόλαος (last quarter of XI c.)
 1989. Μαυροκατακαλὼν N., (XII c.)
 1990. Μεληκ Ίωάννης (XII c.)
 1991. Μελιγαλᾶς Γρηγόριος (X-XI c.)
 1992. Μελίτωνος Λέων (late XI c.)
 1993. Μελισσοπετριώτης Εὐστράτιος (XI-XII c.)
 1994. Μεσαρίτης Νικόλαος (XII-XIII c.)
 1995-1996. Μεσοποταμίτης Μιχαήλ (XII c.)
 1997-1998. Μουσάραφ Κοσμᾶς (second half of XI c.)
 1999. Μουζάκης Νικήτας (second half of XI c.)
 2000. Μουστακάς Ίωάννης (XII c.)
 2001-2004. Μωροχαρζάνης Εὐδόκιμος (last quarter, XI c.)
 2005-2007. Νέστωρ ἄνθρωπος ἄνακτος τοῦ Δούκα (1068-1071)
 2008-2012. Πακουριάνης Ἀσπιέτης (XI-XII c.)
 2013. Πακουριάνης N., (XI c.)
 2014-2015. Παλαιολόγος Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)
 2016. Παλαιολόγος N., (XI c.)
 2017. Παλαιολόγος Μιχαήλ (XII c.)
 2018. Πολιτῆνος Θεοφύλακτος (last quarter of the XI c.)
 2019. Πανηγύρης Θεόδωρος (XIII c.)
 2020. Παξηνός (?) Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)
 2021. Παξηνός Λέων (XI c.)
 2022. Παξηνός Νικήτας (XI c.)
 2023. Πάρδος Γεώργιος (XI c.)
 2024. Παυλικιανόπουλος Νικηφόρος (second half of the XI c.)
 2025. Πεδιάδιτης Ίσαάκιος (XI-XII c.)
 2026. Πεπαγωμένος Ίωάννης (end of the XI c.)
 2027-2028. Περδίκης Μιχαήλ (last quarter, XI c.)
 2029. Πετριτζιότης Θεόδωρος (late XI c.)
 2030. Πολύς Στέφανος (XI c.)

2031-2032. Πρίγουλης Συμεών (second half, XI c.)
 2033. Πτωχέατης Μιχαήλ (XI c.)
 2034. Michael grandson of Samuel (XI c. last quarter)
 2035. Σέλευκος Νικήτας (XI c.)
 2036. Σεναχηρείμ Ἰωάννης (late XI c.)
 2037-2038. Συναίτης Ἰωάννης (XII c.)
 2039. Σκριβοπούλος Μιχαήλ (XI c.)
 2040. Σούλης Λέων (XI c.)
 2041. Σπονδύλης Κωνσταντῖνος (1050s-1070s)
 2042. Στηθάτης Θεόδωρος (last quarter of the XII c.)
 2043. Στραβορωμανός Ἰωάννης (second half of the XI c.)
 2044-2047. Στραβυλανός or Βραβυλενός Σινέσιος (second half, XI c.)
 2048. Στρατηγοπούλος Θεόδωρος (XIII c.)
 2049. Συναδηνός Θεόδουλος (XI-XII c.)
 2050. Συναδηνός Ἰωάννης (second half, XI c.)
 2051. Σωτηλῆτης Θεόδωρος (XI -XII c.)
 2052. Τακουπέρτου Ρογέρης (end of the XI c.)
 2053. Τανούτερης Γεώργιος (XI c.)
 2054. Τανούτερης Στέφανος (XI c.)
 2055. Ταρχανειώτης Ἰωάννης (XIII c.)
 2056-2059. Ταρχανειώτης Κατακαλὼν (1074-1095)
 2060. Τεμισης or Στεμισης Θεόδωρος (XII c.)
 2061. Τζατάκης Ἰωάννης (XI c.)
 2062-2063. Τζιντζιλύκης Λέων (second half, XI c.)
 2064-2065. Τορνίκης Δημήτριος (XII-XIII c.)
 2066. Τορνίκιος Νικηφόρος (late XI c.)
 2067. Τριακοντάφυλλος Ἰωάννης (1080s)
 2068. Τριπολίτηνα Ἑλένη (XI c.)
 2069. Τριψύχης Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2070. Φαρακοπούλος Νικόλαος (second half, XI c.)
 2071. Φιλάγρης Ἰωάννης (XI c.)
 2072. Φιλοκάλης Ἰσαάκιος (second half, XI c.)
 2072A. Φορβενός Ἀργυρός (end of the XI c.)
 2073. Φραγγοπούλος Ν., (XII c.)
 2074. Φωκᾶς Ν., (mid-XIII c.)
 2075. Χαασανόπουλος Δαυὶδ (late XI c.)
 2076. Χαβδούνιος (XI-XII c.)
 2077-2080. Χαψέ or Χαψᾶς Εὐγένιος (second half, XI c.)
 2081. Χοιροσφάκτης Λέων (second half, XI c.)
 2082. Χουσένης Ἰωάννης (XII c.)
 2083. Χρυσὸς Σωτήριχος (late XI c.)
 2084. Χρυσοστομοίτης Θεόδωρος (last quarter, XI c.)
 2085. Ὠπὸς Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)

B. Homonymics Seals

2086. Ἀλέξιος (XI c.)

2087. Ἀμβρόσιος (VIIIc.)
 2088. Ἀναστάσιος (VIII c.)
 2089. Ἀνδρόνικος (X-XI c.)
 2090. Ἀνδρόνικος (X- XI c.)
 2091. Ἀνδρόνικος (XI c.)
 2092. Ἀνδρόνικος / Ἀνδρόνας / Ἀντώνιος (second half of the XI c.)
 2093. Βα . . . (XI c.)
 2094. Βάρδας (X- XI c.)
 2095. Βασίλειος (end of the XI c.)
 2096 Βασίλειος (end of the XI c.)
 2097. Βραχάμιος (X-XI c.)
 2098. Γερμανός (second half of the XI c.)
 2099. Γεώργιος (X-XI c.)
 2100. Γεώργιος (XI c.,)
 2100A. Γεώργιος (XI c.,)
 2101. Γεώργιος (end of the XI c.)
 2102. Γεώργιος (last quarter of the XI c.)
 2103. Γεώργιος (XII c.)
 2104. Γληγόριος (IX-X c.)
 2105. Γρηγόριος (last quarter of the IX c.)
 2106. Γρηγόριος (second half of the XI c.)
 2107. Δαμιανός (X-XI c.)
 2108 Δημήτριος (X-XI c.)
 2109. Δημήτριος (end of the XI c.)
 2110. Δημήτριος (end of the XI c.)
 2111. Δημήτριος (end of the XI c.)
 2112. Ἐλευθέριος (XI c., second half)
 2113. Ἐπιφάνιος (X-XI c.)
 2114. Εὐστάθιος (XI c.)
 2115. Εὐστράτιος (second half of the XI c.)
 2116. Εὐφημία (second half of the XI c.)
 2117. Εὐφήμιος (IX-X c.)
 2118-2120. Ζαχαρίας (XI c., second half)
 2121. Θεόγνωστος (end of the XI c.)
 2122-2127A. Θεόδουλος (XI c., second half)
 2128. Θεόδωρος (end of the XI c.)
 2129. Θεόδωρος (XI c.)
 2130. Θεόδωρος (end of the XI c.)
 2131. Θεόδωρος (XI c., second half)
 2132. Θεόδωρος (end of the XI c.)
 2133. Θεοφάνης (end of the XI c.)
 2134-2135. Θεοφύλακτος (end of the XI c.)
 2136. Θεοφύλακτος (XI c., second half)
 2137. Ἰσὺς ? (X-XI c.)
 2138A. Ἰωάννα (XI c.)
 2138. Ἰωάννης (XI c.)
 2139. Ἰωάννης (XI c.)

2140-2141. Ἰωάννης (XI c.).
 2142-2143. Ἰωάννης (XI c., second half)
 2144-2146. Ἰωάννης (XI c.).
 2147. Ἰωάννης (end of the XI c.)
 2148. Ἰωάννης (XI c., last quarter)
 2149. Ἰωάννης (XI-XII c.)
 2150-2155. Ἰωάννης (XI c.)
 2156. Ἰωάννης (end of the XI c.)
 2157-2158. Ἰωάννης (end of the XI c.)
 2159. Ἰωάννης (XI c.)
 2160. Ἰωάννης (end of the XI c.)
 2161. Καλαμάνος (second half of the XII c.)
 2162. Κραγένης (end of the XI c.)
 2163 Κωνσταντῖνος (X c.)
 2163A. Κωνσταντῖνος (X-XI c.)
 2164-2165. Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2166. Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2167. Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2168. Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2169. Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2170. Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)
 2171-2172. Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2173. Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)
 2174. Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)
 2175. Λευθερίος (XI c.)
 2176. Λέων (XI c.)
 2177-2182. Λέων (X-XI c.)
 2183. Λέων (X-XI c.)
 2184-2185. Λέων (XI c.)
 2186. Λέων (XI c.)
 2187. Λέων (X-XI c.)
 2188-2189. Λέων (end of the XI c.)
 2190. Λέων (end of the XI c.)
 2191. Λέων (end of the XI c.)
 2192. Μανουήλ (end of the XI c.)
 2193-2194. Μανουήλ (XII c.)
 2195. Μανουλάκης (end of the XI c.)
 2196-2197. Μανούλης (X c.)
 2198-2199. Μαρίας (second half of the XI c.)
 2200. Μιχαήλ (XI c.)
 2201. Μιχαήλ (XI c.)
 2202. Μιχαήλ (end of the XI c.)
 2203-2204. Μιχαήλ (XI c.)
 2205. Μιχαήλ (XI c.)
 2206. Μιχαήλ (XI c., second half)
 2207. Μιχαήλ (end of the XI c.)
 2208. Μιχαήλ (end of the XI c.)

2209. Μύρον (XI c.)
 2210. Νικήτας / Νικηφόρος / Νικόλαος (X c.)
 2211. Νικήτας / Νικηφόρος / Νικόλαος (XI c.)
 2212. Νικήτας or Νικηφόρος (X-XI c.)
 2213. Νικηφόρος
 2214. Νικηφόρος (end of the XI c.)
 2215. Νικόλαος (XI c.)
 2216. Παντολέον (second half of the IX c.)
 2216A. Πέτρος (XI c.)
 2217. Πόθος (XI c.)
 2218. Ρωμανός (XI c.)
 2220. Σταυράκιος (20-30 of the IX c.)
 2221-2222. Σταυράκιος (20-30 of the IX c.)
 2223. Στέφανος (XI c.)
 2224. Στέφανος (last quarter of the XI c.)
 2225. Στέφανος (end of the XI c.)
 2226. Χριστόφορος (end of the XI c.)
 2227-2228. Χριστόφορος (end of the XI c.)
 2229. Χρύσος (XIII-XIV c.)

C. Monogramatic Seals

2230. Ἀμαζόνος (VI-VII c.)
 2231. Ἀναστάσιος (VI-VII c.)
 2232. Ἀνδρέας (VI-VII c.)
 2233. Ἀνδρέας μητροπολίτης (VI-VII c.)
 2234. Ἀνδρόνικος (VI-VII c.)
 2235. Ἀνθρόνικος (?) (VI-VII c.)
 2236. Βόνος μάγιστρος (VI-VII c.)
 2237. Γεώργιος (VI-VII c.)
 2238. Γεώργιος (VI-VII c.)
 2239. Γεώργιος (VI-VII c.)
 2240. Γεώργιος (VI-VII c.)
 2241. Γεώργιος (VI-VII c.)
 2243. Γεώργιος (?) (VI-VII c.)
 2244. Γεώργιος (?) (VI-VII c.)
 2245. Γεώργιος ? (VI-VII c.)
 2246. Γεώργιος ? (VI-VII c.)
 2247. Γερμανός ? (VI-VII c.)
 2248. Γρηγόριος (VI-VII c.)
 2249. Ἐπιφάνιος (VI-VII c.)
 2250. Εὐγένιος (VI-VII c.)
 2251. Εὐσέβιος (?) (VI-VII c.)
 2252. Ζάρμος (VI-VII c.)
 2253. Ἡλίας (VI-VII c.)
 2254. Ἡράκλεος (VI-VII c.)
 2255. Ἡράκλεος (VI-VII c.)

2256. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2257. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2258. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2259. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2260. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2261. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2262. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2263. Θεόδωρος (VI-VII c.)
 2264. Θεόκτιστος στρατηλάτης (VI-VII c.)
 2265. Θεόδοτος (VI-VII c.)
 2266. Θεόφιλος (VI-VII c.)
 2267. Ἰσαάκιος (VI-VII c.)
 2267A Ἰσαάκιος (VI-VII c.)
 2268. Ἰούστος (VI-VII c.)
 2269. Ἰούστος (VI-VII c.)
 2270. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2271-2274. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2275-2276. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2277. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2278-2280. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2281-2282. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2283. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2284-2285. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2286. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2287. Ἰωάννης (VI-VII c.)
 2288-2292. Κομεντίολος or Κλίμεντος. (VI-VII c.)
 2293. Κωνσταντῖνος (?) (VI-VII c.)
 2294. Κωνσταντῖνος (VI-VII c.)
 2295. Κωνσταντῖνος (VI-VII c.)
 2296-2297A. Λάζαρος (VI-VII c.)
 2298. Λέοντιος (VI-VII c.)
 2299. Λέων καὶ Στέφανος (VI-VII c.)
 2300. Ματθαῖος ἰλούστριος (VI-VII c.)
 2301. Μαυρίκιος (VI c.)
 2302. Μαυρίκιος (VI c.)
 2303. Μηνᾶς (X-XI c.)
 2304. Νικηφόρος (XI c.)
 2305. Νικόλαος (?) (VI-VII c.)
 2306. Νικόλαος (VI-VII c.)
 2307. Ὠνώριος (VI-VII c.)
 2308. Παῦλος. (VI-VII c.)
 2309. Παῦλος (VI-VII c.)
 2310-2312A. Πρίσκος (VI c.)
 2313-2317. Πρίσκος (VI c.)
 2318. Σέργιος or Γεώργιος (VI-VII c.)
 2319. Σέργιος or Γεώργιος (VI-VII c.)
 2320. Τιμόθεος ἐπίσκοπος (VI-VII c.)

2321. Φιλιππικος πατρίκιος (VI-VII c.)
 2322. Φωκᾶς (VI-VII c.)
 2323. Φωκᾶς (V-VI c.)

Seals of incomplete or differently deciphred monograms

735

2324. Γεώργιος ? (VI-VII c.)
 2335-2367. N., (VI-VII c.)
 2368. N., (XII c.)
 2369-2378. N., (VI-VII c.)
 2379. N., χαρτουλᾶριος (VI-VII c.)
 2380-2382. N., (VI-VII c.)
 2383. N., σκρίβων (VI-VII c.)
 2384-2385. N., (VI-VII c.)
 2386. N., (III-V c.)
 2387. N., (XII c.)
 2388-2416. N., (VI-VII c.)
 2417. Θεόδωρος γραμματικός (VI-VII c.)
 2418. Ευσέβιος (VI-VII c.)
 2419-2420. N., (VI-VII c.)
 2420. Θεοκτιστος πατρικιος (VI-VII)

D. Anonymous Seals

757

2450-2585.

Chapter Seven

Seals of Incomplete Text

A. containing the name and some other characteristics

787

2587. Ἀναστάσιος (?) β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτρικλίνου) (X-XI c.)
 2588. Ἀναστάσιος β' σπαθᾶριος καὶ ... (X-XI c.)
 2589. N., Ξεντοπούλος (XI c.)
 2590. Βαρτα Κουνηνος (X c.)
 2591. Βασίλειος N., (XI c.)
 2592. Βασίλειος N., (end of the XI c.)
 2593. Βασίλειος πραιπόσιτος, β' ὀστιάριος. (X-XI c.)
 2594. Βασίλειος (?) β' ὀστιάριος (X-XI c.)
 2595. Βασίλειος (VIII c.)
 2596. N., Βατάτζης β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος, ταγματοφύλαξ καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)
 2597. Γεώργιος. (X c.)
 2598. Γεώργιος (X-XI c.)
 2599. Γεώργιος (X-XI c.)
 2600. Γεώργιος (X-XI c.)

2601. Γεώργιος (X-XI c.)
 2602. Γεώργιος (XI c.)
 2603. Γεώργιος N., (XI c.)
 2604. Γεώργιος (IX c.)
 2605. Γεώργιος ? (XI c.)
 2606. Γεώργιος N. (XII c.)
 2607. Genethlius ex consulae (VI-VII c.)
 2608. Γουδέλης? πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2609. Γρηγόριος N., πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2610. Γρηγόριος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτριγκλίνου. . . (X-XI c.)
 2611. Γρηγόριος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 2612. Ἐπιφάνιος / Στέφανος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2613. Ἐυγένιος καὶ Ἰωάννης μαρδαῖται (X-XI c.)
 2614. Εὐφήμιος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτριγκλίνου. . . (X-XI c.)
 2615. Εὐφροσύνη N., πρωτοπρόεδρος (second half of the XI c.)
 2616. Θεόγνωστος β' σπαθάριος (IX c.)
 2617. Θεόδωρος (XI c.)
 2618. Θεόδωρος (XI c.)
 2619. Θεόδωρος πρόεδρος (last quarter of the XI c.)
 2620-2621. Θεόδωρος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2623. Θεόδωρος N., (end of the XI c.)
 2624. Θεόδωρος N., (XI c.)
 2625. Θεόδωρος (XI c.)
 2626. Θεόδωρος N., (XI c.)
 2627. Θεόδωρος N., (XI c.)
 2628. Θεόδωρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Χερσόνος ? (end of the XI c.)
 2629. Θεοφάνης (X-XI c.)
 2630. Θεοφάνης / Θεοφάνος or Θηριάνος (X-XI c.)
 2631. Θεοφάνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (IX-X c.)
 2632. Θεοφάνης κριτής (late XI c.)
 2633. Θεοφύλακτος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτριγκλίνου (X c.)
 2634. Θεοδώριτος / Θεοχάριστος Δούκας ? (XI-XII c.)
 2635-2636. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 2637. Ἰωάννης β' σπαθάριος (IX c.)
 2638. Ἰωάννης (X c.)
 2639. Ἰωάννης N., (X-XI c.)
 2640. Ἰωάννης N., πρόεδρος (XI c., last quarter)
 2641. Ἰωάννης Ξηρὸς (XI c.)
 2642. Ἰωάννης (end of the XI c.)
 2643. Ἰωάννης (end of the XI c.)
 2644. Ἰωάννης N., (XI c., second half)
 2645. Ἰωάννης N., (XI c., third quarter)
 2646. Κατακαλὼν β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2647. Κατακαλὼν N., (end of the XI c.)
 2648. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος. (X c.)
 2649. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Ἑλλάδος (X c.)
 2650. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)

2651. Κωνσταντῖνος N., ἐπισκεπτής (X-XI c.)
 2652. Κωνσταντῖνος (end of the XI c.)
 2653. Κωνσταντῖνος κουράτωρ (X- XI c.)
 2654. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 2655. Κωνσταντῖνος N., (X-XI c.)
 2656. Κωνσταντῖνος (XI c.)
 2657. Κωνσταντῖνος N., (XII c.)
 2658. Κωνσταντῖνος Αὐτωρειανός (XII c.)
 2659. Κωνσταντῖνος (X-XI c.)
 2660. Κωνσταντῖνος N., (XI-XII c.)
 2661. Λέων Μάκρης ? (end of the XI c.)
 2663. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 2664. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 2665. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2666. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς? (X-XI c.)
 2667. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2668. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν (IX-X c.)
 2669. Λέων N., (second half of the XI c.)
 2670. Λέων N., (end of the XI c.)
 2671. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν (end of the IX c.)
 2672. Λέων σπαθαροκανδιδάτος (X-XI c.)
 2673. Λέων Ῥαδηνός χαρτουλάριος καὶ ἐπισκεπτής (X-XI c.)
 2674. Μανουὴλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ (IX-X c.)
 2675. Μανουὴλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτονος καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2676-2677. Μανουὴλ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (X c.)
 2678. Μαριανός β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)
 2679. Μιχαὴλ ? (XI c.)
 2680. Μιχαὴλ πριμικήριος (X-XI c.)
 2681. Μιχαὴλ (X-XI c.)
 2682. Μιχαὴλ πατρίκιος (XI c.)
 2683. Μιχαὴλ (XI c.)
 2684-2684A. Μιχαὴλ πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)
 2685. Μιχαὴλ N., (XI c.)
 2686. Μιχαὴλ T., (XI c.)
 2687. Μιχαὴλ (end of the XI c.)
 2688. Μιχαὴλ N., (XI c.)
 2689. Μιχαὴλ Ἀγγελός (?) (XIII c.)
 2690. Νικήτας ἀσηκρήτις καὶ κρητὴς Δρουγουβιτίας (X-XI c.)
 2691. Νικήτας β' σπαθάριος καὶ γηροκόμοι (IX-X c.)
 2692. Νικήτας N., (X-XI c.)
 2693. Νικήτας N., ? (XI c.)
 2694. Νικήτας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος, ὕπατος (X-XI c.)
 2695. Νικήτας or Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτριγκλίνου (X-XI c.)
 2696. Νικηφόρος πρόεδρος Μάκρης (XI c.)
 2697. Νικηφόρος N., σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος (X-XI c.)
 2698. Νικηφόρος (X-XI c.)
 2699. Νικηφόρος (XI c.)

2700. Νικόλαος μητροπολίτης ... (XII c.)
 2701. Νικόλαος σπαθάριος..... (X-XI c.)
 2702. Νικόλαος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος..... (X-XI c.)
 2703. Νικόλαος β' σπαθάριος καὶ τουρμάρχης..... (X-XI c.)
 2704. Νικόλαος (X c.).
 2705. Νικόλαος Καζάνης ...?. (X-XI c.)
 2706. Νικόλαος N., (XI c.)
 2707. Παγράτιος ἀνθύπατος πατρίκιος (XI c.)
 2708. Παῦλος σπαθάριος (X c.)
 2709. Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος..... (X-XI c.)
 2710. N., 'Ραδηνός (XI c.)
 2711. 'Ρωμανός (X-XI c.)
 2712. Σισίνιος κουβικουλάριος . . (IX c.)
 2713. Σισίνιος (first half of the IX c.)
 2714. Σταυράκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ (X c.)
 2715. Στέφανος β' κουβικουλάριος or κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)
 2716. Στέφανος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ (XI c.)
 2717. Στέφανος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσотρικλίνου ἐξάκτωρ καὶ (X-XI c.)
 2718. Συμεὼν Καραντηνός (XI c.)
 2719. Φώτιος β' σπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγός (IX c.)
 2720. Χριστοφόρος β' κληρικός καὶ κουβουκλήσιος (X c.)
 2721. N., Βατάτζης σεβαστός (XI-XII c.)
 2722. Νικήτας N., μάγιστρος (end of the XI c.)
 2723- 2732. N., (X-XI c.)
 2733. N., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ... (X-XI c.)
 2734. N., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσотριγλίνου.....(X-XI c.)
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INTRODUCTION

The beginning of this project germinated nearly thirty years ago in connection with a major discovery in Preslav: the chancery and archive of the local Byzantine strategos after 971. Then, from the search for parallels of the Preslav seals, the spontaneous idea of locating and gathering all Byzantine seals from the territory of modern Bulgaria began to crystallize.

I must honestly say that before the Preslav discovery, I myself was in fact unfamiliar with Byzantine seals. The first specimen I had come across was when I was a curator at Nova Zagora Museum (1972-1974): it left me completely baffled (see no. 666). I felt quite ignorant in the face of this new category of specimens.

It is useful to review here in brief the development of Byzantine sigillography in Bulgaria.

In 1934, N. Mushmov published a study devoted to the Byzantine seals in the collection of the National Archaeological Museum. It included about fifty specimens, most of Istanbul origin. The material is genuinely interesting and the reading of some specimens is still disputed.

The publication of 20 further specimens (Герасимов and Маслев) was already connected with find-spots in the Bulgarian lands, specifically with Pliska and Preslav. The seals from the excavations of the medieval fortress near Pernik had a definite representative character. The publications of our Romanian colleagues (Papahagii, Banescu, Barnea and others) who published seals from the region of medieval Dristra preserved in Romanian collections had a different chronological and thematic line.

However, a recapitulation will show that the number of the Byzantine seals from the territory of modern Bulgaria known in the literature did not exceed 100-150 specimens at the time.

As scholarship developed further, Preslav emerged as a manifold chance event: both the discovery of the material and its publication, which appeared with some delay. It might never have seen the light of day, but history looked favorably on us at that conjuncture. The writing of the volume coincided by chance with the great changes that swept through our country in late 1989. The emblematic turning point, November 10th, 1989, found me in Dumbarton Oaks in the United States working on the seals of the strategia of Preslav and accumulating material for the project.

The printing of the book was likewise a matter of some chance, as many other events in my life, hopefully fortunate ones. An old friend and former fellow student was appointed acting director of the Military Publishing House and helped to provide the necessary funding for publication, which no other publishing house could afford to bring out at that time. The advent of democracy set free powerful energies for creativity and scholarship, and everything which was formerly forbidden was now published at a feverish pace. Scholarly literature, especially in the field of Byzantine Studies, was for the moment out of the question.

It should be taken into account that the *Corpus* is actually a composite 'abstract' collection of Byzantine seals in the possession of various owners. I have accessed these seals under a varied array of circumstances, sometimes only for minutes, but since they were discovered on Bulgaria soil, it is I feel my obligation to present them all - this regardless of the incompleteness of documentation in some instances.

Two important factors have influenced the implementation of the *Corpus*: my

development as a sigillographer and the reality of life in Bulgaria over the last two decades.

My own scholarly trajectory as an expert on Byzantine seals has been significantly shaped of course by the finds of seals in Bulgaria, as well as my contacts with colleagues abroad, my specialization and other factors. I have had many opportunities to work with the leading authorities in the field of Byzantine sigillography, beginning with the late Nikos Oikonomides, then advisor for Byzantine Sigillography in Dumbarton Oaks, V. S. Shandrovskaia, curator of the collection of Byzantine seals from Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, Werner Seibt, director of the project Phototheque of Byzantine seals at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, J.-C. Cheynet from Paris and others.

The realities of life in Bulgaria over the last twenty years find direct reflection in the collection of seals discovered in Bulgaria, in particular in its dynamism and rapid growth. Due to the widespread phenomenon of treasure-hunting, the amount of seals from Bulgaria is constantly growing, which forces the researcher into a dilemma of riches: when should he or she pause to codify what is at hand?

The project *Corpus* is not institutionalized, but I have been actively working on it for 30 years now, and it has gone through a number of changes.

An initial stage was completed in 1991 in the form of a thesis for a doctoral dissertation. Then the total number of seals was 1,200. This dissertation was reworked into a manuscript during 1997-1998, when the amount exceeded 1,800 specimens. This fact and the discovery in Preslav were the reasons for holding the VIth International Symposium in Byzantine Sigillography in Bulgaria, and specifically in Preslav.

The publication of the *Corpus* in English at that time presented certain difficulties, largely in regard to funding. For that reason, we chose to undertake publication in stages.

The *Corpus of the Byzantine Seals from Bulgaria*, volume 1: *The Byzantine Seals with Geographical Names* came out in 2003. It includes 1 boulloterion, and 421 Byzantine lead seals of dignitaries of the Byzantine provincial administration (secular, military and ecclesiastical) belonging to 80 different institutions in the province headed by 232 titulars.

The *Corpus of the Byzantine Seals from Bulgaria*, volume 2: *The Byzantine Seals with Family Names* followed in 2006. It encompasses nearly 800 lead seals struck in the name of more than 400 individuals who were representatives of ca. 300 different Byzantine families.

When compiling the third volume, I encountered a real problem in formulating the title. None of the ideas seemed fully satisfactory. Consequently, I decided to revert to the initial suggestion *Corpus*, this in keeping with the classifications made by my predecessors, in particular Father V. Laurent. The entire material from Bulgaria is included for the sake of completeness. The seals published in Volumes 1 and 2 are only documented. Of course, changes in the reading and commentary or new finds are duly noted.

According to established tradition, the *Corpus* is provided with indexes of proper, family and geographical names as well as of the titles and positions inscribed on the seals. An iconographic index and an index of the seals with metrical texts are also included. One new index deals with the provenance of the seals. The specific advantage of the seals from Bulgaria is that information on find-spots is available for a large number of them. This index is perhaps the beginning of a future investigation of the settlements, towns and regions in medieval Bulgaria as based on the sigillographic data.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the realization of this project. First of all, to my family for their support during all this time, to my colleagues in Bulgaria and abroad for their assistance and invaluable cooperation. Last but not least, to my publishers and assistants who were involved in preparing this complex and voluminous manuscript, with illustrations, for publication in book form.

ABBREVIATIONS OF WORKS CITED

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ГИБИ: *Гръцки извори за българската история*. София (1956-)
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CRITICAL SIGNS

AB	letters of uncertain reading
AB	part of letters
....	ilegible letters(exact number)
(αβ)	abbreviation
[αβ]	reconstruction of lost or ilegible letters

GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS

AM	Archaeological Museum
ca.	circa
D.	dimension
DO	Dumbarton Oaks
ed(s)	edited by, edition(s)
g.	gram(s)
IFEB	Institut Francais d'Etudes byzantines, Paris
l	left
m	meters
MK	Münzkabbinetts, Wien
mm	millimeters
NHM	National Historical Museum, Sofia
no(s)	number(s)
Obv.	obverse
pl(s)	plate(s)
r.	right
Rev.	reverse
RHM	Regional Historical Museum
squ.	squer
Suppl.	Supplement
W.	weight

Chapter One

THE PALACE

1. The Emperor

He stood on top of the hierarchical pyramid of the imperial administration, which has been presented in the present research in compliance with the possibilities of the material. Both in Byzantine Numismatics and Sigillography, the reign of Anastasios I (491-518) has been accepted as a starting point – the period when, according to the popular expression of Numismatics, “sufficient changes in the representations, inscriptions and overall appearance of coins occurred as to distinguish them from those of the Roman Empire”.

There is close similarity in the representations on coins and seals of Byzantine emperors. Their dies were probably made by the same engravers. However, complete correspondence between the representations on coins and seals cannot be considered a rule. One should not rely on that in the identification of the ruler on some poorly-preserved seal.

The material from the territory of modern Bulgaria cannot present all Byzantine emperors. That would depend on the possibilities of this intrinsically abstract collection, whose composition was for its part dependent on the historical fate of the Bulgarian lands, on their belonging to the Empire in definite periods of time, on the contacts with it and, last but not least, on the condition of the Bulgarian collections (their assemblage, preservation, etc.).

Out of the four types of imperial seals (gold, silver, lead and wax, according to the material from which their blanks were made), only seals of lead blanks, molibdobullae, are known from the territory of modern Bulgaria.

The seals of the Latin Empire, a successor of Byzantium for a definite period of time, have also been incorporated into the Byzantine ones. For this reason, I have also included the seals of the emperors of Trapezous.

The data from the seals discovered in the territory of modern Bulgaria should be interpreted according to time and space, i.e. according to the specific historical background. The discovery of Byzantine imperial seals in settlements which once belonged to the Bulgarian state attests to the Bulgarian-Byzantine relationships, while the discovery of such seals from periods when these regions were part of the Empire is evidence of the contacts of the central power with the provinces.

1-3. 'Αναστάσιος, Α' (491-518)

1. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.28699. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-20 mm. Presumably once a good imprint, now chipped at one end.

Unpublished.

2. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-21 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Unpublished.

3. Historical Museum Nesebar, no. 1967. Formerly collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialo). D. 19-22 (?) 5 mm. W. 8.77 g. Complete but poorly-preserved specimen. Corroded.

Ed. Димова, Рановизантийски печати, обр. 1.

The three specimens were struck in different boulloteria.

Parallels: Barnea, Empereurs, no. 1; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 1; Соколова, № 6.

Obv. Bust of Anastasios I, beardless, facing; wears crown, divitision and chlamys fastened with a fibulla over the r. shoulder. Circular inscription along border of dots: DNANASTAS || IOPERPAVG = D(ominus) n(oster) Anastasio(s) perp(etus) Aug(ustus).

Rev. Victory, standing to front on globe, posed on r. foot, looking l.; wears long chiton and holds wreath in either hand.

4-41. Ιουστινιανός, Α' (527-565)

4. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 44. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-18.5 (?) 4 mm. W. 7.42 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 1.

5. National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Formerly in the collection of the college in Silistra. D. 20-20 mm. Specimen in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Barnea, Durostorum, no. 3.

6. Private collection (Al. Vazov from Sofia). Find-spot: Primorsko, disc. Burgas. D. 21-21 mm. Good imprint and specimen in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.

7. Private collection (Al. Vazov from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-20 mm. Incomplete imprint and bulla in a poor state of preservation.
Unpublished.

8. RHM-Shumen, no. 13971. Former collection of Mitko Nejkov from Shumen. Found by a treasure-hunter with a metal detector. Initially he informed me that he had found it in the area between the villages of Stevrek and Cherna Voda, Targovishte region. Later, when he sold it to the Shumen Historical Museum, he reported a different find-spot: the land of the village of Krepcha, Targovishte region. D. 21-22 (20) 3 mm. W. 6.20 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 85.

9. RHM-Shumen, no. 14343. Former collection of Stoyan Zhechev from Shumen. Find-spot: the land of the village of Sushina, Shumen region. D. 14-21 (?) 3 mm. W. 5.10 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 86.

10. Private collection (D. Dimitrov from Pernik), offered for purchase at the National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: Gradishteto locality, Simeonovgrad D. 16-21 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.

11. Private collection (G. Galabov from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-22 mm. Excellent state of preservation.
Unpublished.

12. Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-21 mm. Specimen in a very good state of preservation.
Unpublished.

13. Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-23 mm. Specimen in a very good state of preservation.
Unpublished.

14. Private collection (Yanko Todorov, Shumen). I examined it before it was sold. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-22 mm. Imprint in a superb state of preservation.
Unpublished.

15. Private collection (Pernik). Find-spot: Haskovo-Harmanli region. D. 14-16 (?) 4 mm, 6.95 g. The bulla is in a poor state of preservation; irregular shape.
Unpublished.

16. RHM-Shumen, no. 14626. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-19 (18) 4 mm. W. 9.12 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 87.

17. RHM-Shumen, no. 14627. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-18 (17) 4 mm. W. 8.42 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 88.

18. RHM-Shumen, no. 14641. Find-spot: Sherba Reserve. D. 16-22 (19) 4 mm. W. 7.42 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 89.

19. RHM-Shumen, no. 14642. Find-spot: Sherba Reserve. D. 19-20 (?) 4 mm. W. 7.52 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 90.

20. RHM-Shumen, no. 14720. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-19 (?) 4 mm. W. 6.70 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 91.

21. RHM-Shumen, no. 14759/1. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-23 (?) 4 mm. W. 8.08 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 92.

22. RHM-Shumen, no. 14759/2. Find-spot: Krasen, disc. Ruse. D. 18-22 (?) 4 mm. W. 6.84 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 93.

23. RHM-Shumen, no. 14759/3. Find-spot: the vicinity of Preslav. D. 17-20 (?) 3 mm. W. 5.96 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 94.

24. RHM-Shumen, no. 14845. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 13-19 mm. W. 4.42 g. Half specimen.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 95.

25. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna, no. 142). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-25 mm. W. 7.7 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Unpublished.

26. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna, no. 59). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 12-17 mm. W. 3.00 g. Small piece, but the imprint is almost complete.
Unpublished.

27. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna, no. 112). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15-18 mm. W. 5.00 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation, but nevertheless complete.
Unpublished.

28. Private collection (V. Pantelev). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-19 mm. W. 5.30 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation, but nevertheless complete.
Unpublished.
29. Private collection (V. Pantelev). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-20 mm. W. 6.1.00 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation, but nevertheless complete.
Unpublished.
30. RHM-Shumen, no. 15183. Former collection of Veselin Stankov from Batak, no. 179. Find-spot: Plovdiv region. D. 16-16 (?) 3 mm W. 4.34 g. Complete, in a good state of preservation, but small.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 98
- 31-32. Private collections (I examined them at the numismatics club in Sofia). Find-spot: unspecified. Different states of preservation.
Unpublished.
- 33-34. Private collection (I examined them at K. Totev's place in Veliko Turnovo). Find-spot: generally northeastern Bulgaria. Different states of preservation.
Unpublished.
35. RHM-Shumen, no. 14958/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain (Nevsha?). D. 19-19 mm. W. 5.82 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 96
36. RHM-Shumen, no. 14964/4. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-19 mm; W. 6.12 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 97
37. RHM-Shumen, no. 15184. Former collection of Veselin Stankov from Batak, no. 180. Find-spot: Plovdiv region. D. 17-19 (?) 4.6 mm. W. 7.32 g. In a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 99
38. Historical Museum Nesebar, no. 1819. Find-spot: the village of Kosharica, disc. Nesebar. D. 24-26 (?) 3 mm. W. 7.26 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Димова, Рановизантийски печати, 141-143, обр. 2.
39. Historical Museum Nesebar, no. 2137. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialo). D. 17-17.5 (?) 3 mm, W. 6.73 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Димова, Рановизантийски печати, 141-143, обр. 3.
40. RHM-Shumen, no. 15439/2. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-20 (17) 3.1 mm. Good imprint. Fragment chipped. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished
41. AM-Plovdiv, no. 6011. Former collection of V. Stankov from Batak no. 9. Find-spot: Northern Bulgaria. D. 19-20 mm. W. 6.01. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished
42. AM-Plovdiv, no. 6029. Former collection of V. Stankov from Batak no. 27. Find-spot: the region of northeastern Bulgaria. D. 18-20 mm. W. 7.80 g.
Unpublished
43. AM-Plovdiv, no. 6030. Former collection of V. Stankov from Batak no. 28. Find-spot: the region of northeastern Bulgaria. D. 16-22 mm. W. 6.74 g.
Unpublished

44. RHM-Shumen, no. 15504. Former collection of V. Stankov from Batak no. 228. Find-spot: region of Stara Zagora. D. 24-27 (18) 3.5 mm. W. 6.24. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished

44a. In a private collection V. Stankov from Batak no. 236. Find-spot: near to village of Melnitsa, disc. of Elkhovo. D. 19-20.5 mm. W. 6.35 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Unpublished

44b. RHM-Shumen. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Provadia ? D. 23-26 mm. W. 11.27 g. Complete specimen but in a poor state of preservation.
Unpublished
It cannot be determined whether there are specimens struck in the same boulloterion.
Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 420; Laurent, Vatican, no 9; Barnea, Empereurs, no 2-5; Zacos, Seals, I, no 3 a-b; Seibt, Bleisiegel, no. 6; Соколова, № 7-14.

Obv. Bust of Justinianus I, nimbate, beardless, facing; wears chlamys and crown-helmet with plume and pendants. Circular inscription along border of dots: DNIVSTINI || ANVSPPAVG = D(ominus) n(oster) Justinianus p(er)p(etus) Aug(ustus).

Rev. Winged Victory in chiton advancing to front; holds wreath in either hand. In lower field l. and r., cross.

This is the largest number of Byzantine imperial seals (more than 40 specimens) discovered in the Bulgarian lands. They attest to the active exchange of correspondence between the Palace and the Bulgarian lands, which was in accordance with the policy of Justinianus I regarding the Balkans and specifically the territory of modern Bulgaria.

45. Ἰουστῖνος, Β' (565-578).

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-18 (15) mm, W. 7,8 g.

Ed. Пантелеев, Три византийски императорски печата, 71-76, № 1.

Parallels: Панченко, Каталог, № 381; Лихачев, Некоторые, с. 506, № 21; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 5 (DO. 55. 1. 4238); Соколова, № 15.

Obv. Nimbate bust of Justin II, facing; wears crown with plume. Circular inscription along border of dots: DNIVSTI || NVSPPAVG = D(ominus) n(oster) Iustinus p(er)p(etus) Aug(ustus).

Rev. Winged Victory in chiton advancing to front; holds wreath in either hand. In lower field l. and r., cross.

46-47. Μαυρίκιος Τιβέριος (582-602)

46. RHM-Shumen, no. 15439/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-22 (?) 5 mm. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished

47. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-20 (20) mm, W. 10.00 g.

Ed. Пантелеев, Три византийски императорски печата, 71-76, № 2.

Parallels: Лихачев, Некоторые, с. 506, № 22-23; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 7 c-e; Соколова, № 18-20.

Obv. The Virgin standing, facing, holding with both hands Christ before her. In field l. and r., cross.

Rev. Bust of Maurice Tiberius, beardless, facing; wears crown and chlamys; the crown is surmounted by a cross and bears a circular ornament at the front and double pendants. Circular inscription along border of dots: DNMAVRC || . . bPPAVG : D(ominus) n(oster) Mauric(ios) Ti]b(erius) p(er)p(etus) Aug(ustus).

48-49. Φωκᾶς (602-610)

48. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 11. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-25 (6) 3 mm, W. 16.25 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Мушмов, Печати № 2.

49. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 23702. Find-spot: some place in the Shumen region. D. 21-22 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Schlumberger, Inedita, IV, no. 164; Лихачев, Некоторые, с. 507, № 24-25; Ebersolt, Constantinople, no. 131; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 7 a-c; Seibt, Bleisiegel, no. 10; Соколова, № 21-24.

Obv. The Virgin standing, facing, holding with both hands Christ before her. In field l. and r., long cross potent.

Rev. Bust of Phokas, with pointed beard, wears crown with cross and chlamys. Circular inscription along border of dots: DNFOCAS || PEPAVG = D(ominus) n(oster) Focas perp(etus) Aug(ustus).

50. Ἡράκλειος, Ἡράκλειος καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος (616-625)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 32. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-30 (27) 5 mm, W. 15.04 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Schlumberger, Melanges, no. 116; Gray Birch, no. 17446; Лихачев, Некоторые, с. 509-511, № 28-34; Ebersolt, Constantinople, no. 133; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 12 (DO. 58. 106. 489; 58. 106. 528; 58. 106. 552); Соколова, № 26-43.

Obv. The Virgin standing, facing, holding with both hands Christ before her. In field l. and r., long cross potent.

Rev. On l., bust of Herakleios with short beard, and on r., smaller bust of Herakleios Constantine, beardless; both wear crown with globus cross, divitision and chlamys. In r. upper field, cross. Circular inscription along border of dots: ddNNhERACLIYS...CONSTANT = D(ominus) N(oster) D(ominus) N(oster) Herclius [et Hera(c)lius] Constant(inus)

51. Κώνστανς, Κωνσταντῖνος καὶ Ἀναστασία (668-685)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Formerly in the collection of the college in Silistra. D. 27-27 (?) 4 mm. Good imprint, but the obverse slightly slipped out in the upper end of the blank. Bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Barnea, Durostorum, no. 4.

Parallels: Zacos, Seals, I, no. 19, with some differences both in the lettering and content of the inscription: the names of the basileuses are followed by the inscription ΕΘ' = ἐκ θ(εου).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin facing, holding with both hands Christ before her breast. In upper field l. and r., cross.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:
+ CONS | TANTINOS | CONSTANTOS | SANASTASI. | .ASILRO.
+ Constantinos Constantos ke Anastasi[a] [b]asilis Ro[m(aion)].

There are some differences regarding the dating of these seals. In Zacos' publication cited above this type of seals are associated with the reign of Constance (654-668). As early as 1930s, Laurent, EO, 38, 1939, p. 359, put forward arguments for relating them to the reign of Constantine IV (668-685), which Seibt backed up (Bleisiegel, 75-76).

I have accepted the more precise dating to 679-680 proposed by the publisher of the bulla. The discovery of the bulla in Silistra (Dristra) attests to the measures the Byzantine government took regarding the newly arrived Bulgars. In this sense, the bulla marks the beginning of the Bulgarian-Byzantine relationships after the Bulgarians settled on the Balkan peninsula.

52. Κωνσταντῖνος, Δ' (681-685).

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: village of Tsarevtsi, disc. of Varna. D. 27-30 (22) 5 mm, W. 31.80 g.
Ed. Пантелеев, Три византийски императорски печата, 71-76, № 2.
Parallels: Лихачев, Некоторые, с. 521-522, рис. 53-54; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 22 (DO. 55. 1. 4264); Seibt-Zarnitz, no. 1.1.3; Соколова, № 57-58.

Obv. No inscription. Bust of Constantine IV, bearded facing; wears helmet with crest, cuirass and chlamys; holding in r. spear held transversely behind head; in l. shield.

Rev. Large cross potent with flared arms. Border of dots.

The fact that the seal of Constantine IV was found in the Bulgarian lands is very interesting. If we trust the finder, a treasure hunter, we should seek a connection between the life in this settlement and the events around the creation of the Bulgarian state in 680/681.

53. Λέων, Γ' καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος, Ε' (720-741)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 10. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 30-30 (28) 4 mm. W. 20.33 g.
Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 8.
Parallels: Лихачев, Некоторые, с. 525, рис. 57.59; Ebersolt, Constantinople, no. 139; Konstantopoulos, Stamules, no. 14; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 34 (Fogg A.M., no. 1628); Seibt, Bleisiegel, no. 15; Соколова, № 64-65.

Obv. Cross potent on three steps. Circular inscription along border of dots:
ΕhOhOMtY PRSTYVVSTYAGIY PhS

Ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ Π(ατ)ρ(ὸ)ς (καὶ) τοῦ Υ(ίο)υ (καὶ) τοῦ Ἁγίου Πν(εύματος)
Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΛΕΟΗ | SCΟΗSAΗ | TΙΗOSΠI | STOΙBASI | LISROM | AIOH
Λέον (καὶ) Κωνσταντῖνος πιστοὶ βασιλ(ε)ῖς Ῥωμαίων

The original publisher of this bulla attributed it to the joint reign of Leo IV and Constantine (813-820). Its style and appearance, as well as its paleography point to an earlier dating, namely 720-741 (see *Seibt, Bleisiegel*, 79-81).

54. Κωνσταντῖνος, Ε' καὶ Λέων, Δ' (751-775)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 9. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D.35-36 (30) 4.5 mm, W. 26.18 g.
Good imprint.
Ed. *Мущмов*, Печати, № 4.
Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, I, no 36 a-c (DO. 55. 1. 4221; 58. 106. 589); *Seibt, Bleisiegel*, no 16; *Соколова*, № 67.

Obv. Cross potent on three steps and circular inscription as above.
Rev. Inscription of six lines:
+ COHST | AhTih | OSSLEOH | ISTOIBASI | LISROM | AIOH
+Κωνσταντῖνος (καὶ) Λέον πιστοὶ βασιλ(ε)ῖς Ῥωμαίων

55. Λέων, Δ' καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος, Ζ' (776-780)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 8. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 30-32 (29) 6 mm. W. 36. 01 g.
Incomplete imprint, but bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. *Мущмов*, Печати № 6.
No exact parallels.

Obv. Cross potent as above. Remains of a circular inscription: ΕΗPS
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ ΛΕΟΗSCO | ΗSTAHTI | ΗOSPISTOI | ΒASILISRO | MAIOH
Λέον (καὶ) Κωνσταντῖνος πιστοὶ βασιλ(ε)ῖς Ῥωμαίων

56-58. Θεόφιλος, Μιχαήλ, Β' καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος (830-835).

56. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 179. Find-spot: unspecified place in the Shumen region, presumably Pliska or Preslav. D. 19.5- 21 (21?) 2.5 mm. W. 7.97 g. Good imprint, but the inscription on the obverse is not complete. Bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. *Юркова, Й*. Нов византийски императорски печат от България.- Векове, 4, 1978, 73-76.

57. Archaeological Museum Preslav, no. 25964. Found in the course of excavations in the Inner City of Veliki Preslav in dwelling no. 11 of the Eastern section of a chain building located near the Southern Fortress Wall. D. 20-22 (20) 4 mm. Good imprint, but the reverse was nevertheless struck off-center. Bulla in a superb state of preservation.
Ed. *Витлянов, С*. Два императорски печата от Велики Преслав - *Нумизматика*, 1, 1989, 32-33.

58. Archaeological Center, Debelts, no. 220. Found in the course of excavations in the kommerkia of Develtos in sector A-I, square 87. D. 16-26(25?) 3.5 mm. The preserved piece is smaller than the half of what was once a whole bulla. Weak imprint, which renders the identification of the images and the deciphering of

the inscriptions difficult.

Ed. *Йорданов, Девелт*, VII.1.

It is hard to say whether the three bullae come from the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Theophilos bearded facing; wears crown with cross, divitision and chlamys which is fastened with a fibula over the r. shoulder; r. hand holds patriarchal cross; in l., akakia. Circular inscription along border of dots: *ΘΕΟΦΙ || LOSBASILEO = Θεοφιλος βασιλεος
Rev. Two busts facing, Michael II at l., bearded, Constantine at r., smaller, beardless, each wearing chlamys and crown with cross. Cross in field above. Circular inscription along border of dots: ..XAHLSCOHSTAHTIH :[+ ΜΙ]χαήλ (καὶ) Κωνσταντῖν(ος)

This type of seals was originally published by Jurukova. It has the same iconographic subject and inscriptions as on a type of widely-spread gold solidus of Emperor Theophilos (see *Grierson, DOC*, III.1, 425-428). The main problem with both the solidus and this seal is their exact dating. It is connected with the personages represented on them. They are as follows:

- a) on the obverse, Emperor Theophilos, who was at the head of the Empire from 829-842.
- b) on the reverse, at the right honorific half, the founder of the Amorion dynasty Michael II (820-829), and at the left, the minor Emperor Constantine, proclaimed co-emperor by his father in 830 and died ca. 835.

One viewpoint in the commentary on the dating of the solidus is that these are commemorative coins struck to the memory of the diseased Michael II and Constantine (see *Grierson, DOC*, III.1, 406-407, 425-28). The other one is that they were contemporary to Constantine whose purpose was to propagate the legal right of succession to the throne by the new Amorion dynasty (see *Dikigopoulos, A. I.* The Constantinopolitan Solidi of Theophilos.- *DOP*, 18, 1964, 353-361).

While commemorative coinage is possible to assume, striking of such seals seems unacceptable. Being state symbols, they record the real situation, i.e. the ruling emperor on the obverse; the founder of the dynasty at the right honorific half of the reverse, the continuator of the dynasty at the left. Thus, this seal was affixed to the official correspondence of the Empire during Constantine's co-emperorship, i.e. 830-835. It is quite logical that he could not be considered continuator of the dynasty, since he had already been dead.

The discovery of both bullae in the old Bulgarian centers Pliska and Preslav illustrates the Bulgarian-Byzantine relationships. The seals were affixed to correspondence to the Bulgarian state institutions: to the ichurgoboil (responsible for the foreign policy of the state) in Preslav or to the Bulgarian ruler (at that juncture khan Malamir (831-836)) in Pliska.

59. Βασίλειος, Α' καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος (869-879)

RHM-Shumen, no.15440. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav . D. 30-31 (27?) 3.5 mm. Part of the image and inscription remained outside the blank. Generally a good specimen.

Unpublished

Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, I, no. 59; *Соколова*, № 74-78.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has cross behind head; wears chiton and chimation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots: || TOS *

Rev. On l. bust of Basil I, bearded facing, wears crown with cross, divitision and loros. On r. bust of Constantine, beardless facing, wears crown with cross, divitision and chlamys. Circular inscription along border of dots: + bASIL. : + Βασί(λειος) [(καὶ) Κωνσταντῖν(ος) αὐγ(ούστοι)]

60. Βασίλειος, Α' Κωνσταντῖνος, καὶ Λέων (870-879)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, most probably Pliska or Preslav. D. 29-30 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has cross behind head; wears chiton and chimation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots: + Ihs̄SX || RISTYS *

Rev. Three busts facing, Basil I in center, bearded, wearing loros and crown with cross; Leo and Constantine to l. and r. respectively, smaller, beardless, each wearing chlamys and crown with cross. Circular inscription along border of dots:
+ ΛΕΟΗΒΑΣΙΛΣΟΗΣΤΑΥΓΓ': + Λέον, Βασίλ(ειος) (καὶ) Κονστ(αντῖνος)
αὐγ(ούστοι)

61-64. Λέων, Ζ' καὶ Ἀλέξανδρος (869-912)

61. RHM-Shumen, no. 14643. Find-spot: Vubilin Dol locality, outside the Outer City of Veliki Preslav. D. 22-23 (23 ?) 3 mm. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Нови печати, Обр.2; Jordanov,Zhekova, no. 100.

62. Private collection (V.Pantelev from Varna) Find-spot: Vubilin Dol locality, outside the Outer City of Veliki Preslav. D. 13-24 (?) 2 mm, W. 4 g. Half of once good imprint. Broken into two pieces.
Ed. Йорданов, Нови печати, обр. 3.

63. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna) Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-26 (22?) 2 mm, W. 23 g. Weak and complete imprint but in a poor state of preservation.
Unpublished.

64. Private collection (Nikolai Nikolov from Razgrad). Offered for purchase at the Historical Museum in Shumen, currently in the collection of the National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: Vubilin Dol locality, outside the Outer City of Veliki Preslav. Half preserved. D. 11-23 mm.
Ed. Йорданов, Нови печати, обр. 4.
We could not be absolutely certain that the four specimens come from the same boulloterion.
Parallels: Zacos, Seals I, nos. 60 (DO. 55. 1. 4294; 55. 1. 4298); Соколова, № 80.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has cross behind head; wears chiton and chimation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots:.....XRISTYCNICA

Rev. At l., bust of Leo VI, bearded, facing; wears crown with cross, divitision and loros.

At r., bust of Alexander, beardless, facing; wears crown with cross, divitision and chlamys. The two emperors hold between them labarum ornamented with X. Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΛΕΟΗΒΑΣΙΛΣΟΗΣΤΑΥΓΓ'..... + Λέον καὶ Ἀλέξαν(δρος) [αὐγ(ούστοι)]

65-70. Ν., καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος (869-879); (908-912); (912-13)

65. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 26630. Found in the course of archaeological excavations of chain dwellings located near the Southern Fortress Wall of the Inner City of Veliki Preslav, D. 22-25(?) 2.5 mm. The bulla is in a good state of preservation, but the blank was smaller in size than the dies and the imprint itself was off-centered, presumably due to looseness of the boulloterion.
Ed. Йорданов, Чужди владетели, № 2.

66. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 25992. Found in the same circumstances in the southwestern corner of the same dwellings. D. 18-23 (21) 2.5 mm. Struck off-center. Half preserved.
Ed. Йорданов, Чужди владетели, № 3.

67. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 19272. Found in the course of archaeological excavations at the same site, but at the beginning of the chain dwellings at the Southern Gate in square A2. D. 20.5-25 (23) 3.5 mm. Once a good imprint; now one third chipped. The obverse is almost completely obliterated.
Ed. Йорданов, Чужди владетели, № 4.

68. RHM-Shumen, no. 14792. Find-spot: Outer City of Pliska, according to its finder. D. 15-24 mm. W. 6.52 g. Once a good imprint. Fragment larger than a half containing bust of Christ in a superb state of preservation and imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Нов адм. център, № 6; Jordanov,Zhekova, no. 101.

69. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-28 mm. Incomplete imprint. The inscription is cut. The bulla itself is holed and was suspended from a document.
Unpublished.

70. Private collection (V.Pantelev from Varna) Find-spot: uncertain. D. 10-24 mm, W. 3.8 g. Half preserved.
Unpublished
It is impossible to determine whether there are specimens struck in the same boulloterion.
Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 419; Zacos, Seals, I, nos. 59-60; Лихачев, Табл. LXXVI,5; Соколова, № 74-78, but regarding only the images. The inscriptions of these specimens date them to the period of the joint reign of Basil I and Constantine (868-879).

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has cross behind head; wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots: +Ihs̄SXRIS.....

Rev. Two busts facing. At l., bearded, wears crown with cross, divitision and loros. At r., beardless, wears crown with cross, divitision and chlamys. The two emperors hold between them labarum ornamented with X. Traces of a circular inscription:

1.R'
2.hT'bASIL'R'
= [..... (kai) Consta]nt(inos) basil(is) R(omaion).
3.OhSTAht'AΥΓ'R'
= [...(kai) C]onstant(inos) Aug(oustoi) R(omaion).
4.COhSTAht'....

The main problem concerns the dating of these seals. The name of the co-emperor Constantine is of little help. The seals could be attributed to the joint reigns of Basil I and his son Constantine (869-879), of Leo VI and his son Constantine VII (908-912) or of Alexander and his nephew Constantine VII (912-913). It is an interesting ascertainment that the portrait and inscription of precisely the second emperor Constantine are preserved on the five extant specimens. Is it only a matter of chance?

The inscription recording the name of the monobasileus represented at right is missing on the three Preslav specimens. This renders their interpretation difficult. If we accept the previous definitions that they apply to Basil I, the period 869-879 is rather early for their discovery in Preslav. There are further possibilities as well, which have not yet been evidenced by extant seals: the ruler at right to be either Leo VI with a dating to 908-912 or Alexander with a respective dating to 912-913.

We are left in anticipation for a better preserved specimen that could solve our hesitations.

71-75. Κωνσταντῖνος, Η' (912-959)

A (919-921).

71. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 56. Find-spot, according to T. Totev, supervisor of the excavations: Patleina, southwestern sector of dwelling no. 7, at a depth of 0.80-1.00 m, on 28th August, 1989. D. 15-29 (28?) 3 mm. The imprint was well-centered, but nevertheless incomplete, since the blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies. Mainly the inscription remained out of the blank. Half of what was once a whole imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Чужди владетели, № 5.

Parallels: I examined a photo of another specimen struck in the same boulloterion and preserved in Istanbul (Istanbul, I.6) in the summer of 1998 in Vienna. Its inscription is better preserved and corroborates the reading of the name Constantine already made.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; behind his head, a cross, only half preserved. His r. hand in blessing gesture and the book of Gospels are visible. Remains of a circular inscription:.....STCHS

Rev. Bust of emperor, facing, beardless (?); wears crown, divitision and loros; in l. globus surmounted by cross. Remnants of a circular inscription: COh

The deciphering of the ruler's name does not solve the problems. Constantine VII was born in September 905. He was proclaimed co-emperor by his father in 908 and died in 959. His co-emperorship continued almost throughout the whole period (more than fifty years): until 912 his joint reign with his father Leo VI; from 913 to 919 his joint reign with his mother Zoe; from 921 to 945 his joint reign with Romanos I Lakapenos and his sons; and after 945 his joint reign with his son Romanos II. A sole reign and a sole representation on his seals is possible in the period September 919 - December 920, when Romanos Lakapenos did not yet establish himself firmly on the throne, and in 945, after the dethronement of the Lakapeni and prior to proclaiming his son co-emperor.

Constantine VII is represented with a long bushy beard on his coins and seals from 945, while he is beardless on the present seal. Therefore, it dates from the period when Constantine was a young and sole ruler, i.e. 919-921.

B (945).

72. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.19 (3367) Found in the course of archaeological excavations at the site "Pod Zabuite" in Preslav in square C8 at a depth of 0.40 m on 10th July 1970. D. 28-30(24) 3.01 mm. Very good imprint, but nevertheless unsuccessful centering. Bulla in a superb state of preservation. *Ed.* Тотеv, Новооткрити, 287-289; Йорданов, Чужди владетели, № 7.

73. National Historical Museum, Bucharest; formerly in the collection of the college in Silistra. D. 29-32(24) 3 mm. The imprint is incomplete as the above. The blank probably slipped in the boulloterion. The surface of this bulla is not so well preserved as of the above specimen. *Ed.* Barnea, Empereurs, no. 9.

74. Private collection (V.Pantelev from Varna) .Find-spot, according to its first possessor (V. Savov from Shumen): the land of the village of Sushina, Shumen region; it is quite possible however that its find-spot was Preslav, having in mind the personality of its finder. D. 27-30 mm. W. 11.00 g. The obverse is well-imprinted, but the die with the portrait of the ruler strongly imprinted at the left and half of it was left out of the blank. *Unpublished.*

75. RHM-Shumen, no. 14768. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 15-27 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint. *Unpublished.*

75A. RHM-Shumen. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 28-31 (?) 5 mm. W. 15.05 g. Incomplete imprint. Only the center fields of the matrix printed. *Unpublished.*

Parallels: Konstantopulos, no 278; Zacos, *Seals*, I, no 70 a-d; Лихачев, табл. LXXVI, 7-8,10; Соколова, № 84-86; Auction Münzzentrum, 74, 11-13.09. 1992, no 1092. It is hard to determine the number of boulloteria in which they were struck. Our nos. 1-2 are close to Zacos' no. 70 a. Our no. 3 is close, but nevertheless different to Lihachov's LXXVI, 7 and Zacos', no. 70b.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has cross behind head; wears chiton and chimation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots: X || RISTCHS *

Rev. Bust of Constantine VII, facing; wears long bard, crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros crossed over chest; in l. globus surmounted by patriarchal cross. Circular inscription along border of dots: COhSTAHT' TOPIORFVROGCh' AЧТОCRA: + Κωνσταντῖνος ὁ Πορφυρογέν(νητος) αὐτοκρά(τωρ)

As it was noted above, the sole reign and sole representation of Constantine VII on his seals is possible in 945, the year to which this group of seals should be dated.

The receipt of correspondence in Preslav in 945 is not a surprise, taking into consideration the traditional contacts between Bulgaria and Byzantium during that period. The duplicating of this correspondence by sending it to Dristra as well raises some interesting questions. Who was it addressed to?

The answer given by our Romanian colleague cited above is known and straightforward: to the representative of the Byzantine administration in the Lower Danube who resided in Dristra.

However, besides this obviously absurd answer a different one could also be proposed. The last Bulgarian patriarch Damianus is known to have resided in Dristra in 971. The existence in Dristra of a growing amount of Byzantine seals from the IXth-Xth centuries suggests the idea also corroborated by other sources that the see of the Bulgarian archbishop

and future patriarch was located precisely in Dristra (see **Jordanov**, Dobrudja, 197-199).

The simultaneous receipt in Dristra and Preslav of correspondence impressed with the seal of Constantine VII from 945 attests to some important change in Constantinople also concerning the Bulgarian-Byzantine relationships. It was perhaps in connection with the dethronement of the Lakapena in Constantinople; we should keep in mind that a representative of this family, Maria, occupied the Bulgarian throne. From that moment on she was no longer represented on the Bulgarian state symbols and was therefore removed from the ruling body. Perhaps this change was at the root of the correspondence in question.

76-80. Ῥωμανός, Α' Χριστοφόρος καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος, Η' (927-931)

76. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 37. According to T. Totev, supervisor of the excavations, it was found in buildings situated along the road from the Inner Western Fortress Wall to the Monastic Complex "Pod Zabuite" in dwelling no. 2, at a depth of 0.80 m, on 6th September 1979. D. 32-33(31) 2.5 mm. Well-centered and well-executed imprint. The images and inscriptions are very distinct in spite of the weak imprint. Cracked along the channel.

Ed. **Тотев**, Новооткрити, 287-289; **Йорданов**, Чужди владетели, № 7.

77. RHM-Silistra, no. 65. Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Tsar Assen, Silistra region. D. 14-27 (over 27) 1.8 mm. Half. Poor state of preservation. Weak imprint; as a result, the images and inscription are indistinct.

Unpublished.

78. RHM-Shumen, no. 14357. Find-spot: the fortress in Fiseka locality near the present-day village of Cherencha, Shumen region. D. 30-31 mm. W. 18.34 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 104.

79. RHM-Shumen, no. 14688. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-25.5 (22.5) 2.5 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 105.

80. Historical Museum, Elkhovo, no. 3704. Find-spot: fortress near to village Melnitsa, disc. of Elkhovo. D. 18-28 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint. Holed at the side of Christ's image.

Unpublished.

It is difficult to determine whether some specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no 66. Auctions: Münzzentrum, Köln, 74, 11-13.09. 1992, no. 1090; Münzzentrum, Köln, 88, 07-09.01. 1997, no 1209; **Seibt-Zarnitz**, no 1.1.4; **Соколова**, № 83.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing, with cross behind head; wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels with jeweled cover (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots: + IHSϞSX || RISTϞS *

Rev. In center, half-length figure of Romanos I, bearded, facing; wears jeweled crown with pendants, divitision and loros. He holds the akakia in his r. hand before his breast; in l. hand globus surmounted by cross. In l. and r. background, diminutive busts of Christophoros and Constantine VII, beardless, facing and wearing crown with cross, divitision and ornamented chlamys. Circular inscription:

+ ROMAn' XPISTOF'CECONSTANT' b'R'

+ Ῥωμαν(ός) Χριστοφόρος κὲ Κονσταντ(ῖνος) βασιλεῖς Ῥ(ωμαίων)

The dating of the bullae corresponds to the personages represented on them: Romanos

I, Christophoros and Constantine VII. Romanos I proclaimed himself emperor on 17th December 920. Christophoros was proclaimed co-emperor on 20th May 921 and died in August 931. Constantine VII, as noted above, was a co-emperor throughout the period 908-959. Thus the key to the dating of this type of seals is Christophoros' co-emperorship, i.e. 921-931. However the fact that Christophoros is represented to the right of Romanos I (the place reserved for the superior co-emperor) and his name was inscribed before that of Constantine VII reminds us of that significant moment in 927, when during the wedding of the Byzantine princess Maria, daughter of Christophoros, with the Bulgarian ruler Peter, the Bulgarians, according to the chronicler, "insisted that Christophoros should be acclaimed first, and then Constantine" (see *ГИБИ*, VI, c. 151), to which Romanos I acceded, i.e. there was a change in the superiority of the co-emperors.

Thus the exact dating of this type of seals should be within the period 927-931.

It is not difficult to determine the Preslav addressee of the correspondence impressed with the imperial state seal bearing the images of the three emperors after the established peace and mostly having in mind that a Byzantine princess, a representative of the ruling dynasty in Constantinople, was located in Preslav.

However, it will be more difficult to determine the addressees of the correspondence of the same emperors received in the strongholds near the present-day villages of Tsar Asen and Cherencha in the Fiseka locality, since foreign rulers should not write directly to any provincial Bulgarian governors.

81. N., Ῥωμανός (920-?) or (945-959)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15252. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 16-25 (23) 2 mm. W. 5.02 g. Half of what was once a successful imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 102.

No parallels known.

Obv. The right half of a bust of Christ represented as above. Remains from the inscription:

+ Ih. . . X ||

Rev. Of the two busts the one on the right is preserved. Indistinct letters. The following could be read with a modicum of imagination: PWMAN b'R'

It is difficult to identify the individuals represented on the seal. Is it Romanos I or Romanos II? Should it be the former, it is perhaps the initial period of his joint reign with the young Constantine VII, when Romanos was only a co-ruler. If not so, then it should refer to the joint reign of Constantine VII and Romanos II (945-959). With the uncertainty of the text any commentary is superfluous.

82. Κωνσταντῖνος καὶ Ῥωμανός? (920-?) or (945-959)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15477/7. Find-spot: Preslav. Formerly collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07. 07). D. 12-26 (24 ?) 2 mm. W. 4.30 g. Fragment smaller than a half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished.

Obv. The left half of a bust of Christ represented as above. Remains from the inscription: +

. || . RISTϞS

Rev. Of the two busts the one on the left is preserved; bearded, wears crown with cross, divitision and loros. He holds the labarum in his r. hand placed between them. Remains from the circular inscription: +CONSTANT

It is hard to say with any certitude to which period of Constantine VII's reign the seal can be attributed: whether to the hypothetical year 920 or most probably to 945-959, i.e. this fragment might be the other half of the mentioned seals.

83. N., N., X century

RHM-Shumen, no. 14808. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: in the area of the fortress near to Miladinovtsi, Razgrad region. D. 21-21 (21?) 3 mm. W. 5.90 g. The imprint was made at least twice probably due to the slipping of the blank in the boulloterion. For this reason no inscription containing the names of the rulers is visible.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 103.

No parallels known.

Obv. Christ seated on a high-backed throne, wears tunic and himation. He blesses (r. hand) and holds the book of Gospels (l. hand) on his knees. Remains of the circular inscription: REG.

Rev. Two busts facing. At l., bearded, wears crown with cross, divitision and loros. At r., beardless, wears crown with cross, divitision and chlamys. The two emperors hold between them patriarchal cross. No inscription can be identified.

A Byzantine seal with such iconography is unknown in the literature. This iconography is found on the gold solidi of the IXth-Xth-century emperors.

1. Basil I - Class 2 (868-879) - Basil I and Constantine – see *DOC*, III/II, Pl. XXX.2
2. Constantine VII and Romanos I - Class 3 (920-921) – see *DOC*, III/II, Pl. XXXVI.3
3. Romanos I and Constantine - Class 4 (921) – see *DOC*, III/II, Pl. XXXVI.4
4. Romanos I and Christophoros - Class 7 (921-931) – see *DOC*, III/II, Pl. XXXVI.7

But this case undoubtedly concerns a bulla and not a lead solidus. The channel is visible and the two depictions (on the obv. and rev.) are in the same direction, which is not so on the solidi. Most probably this is a bulla produced with a coin seal and should be dated to the periods of the emperors presented above.

84. Ἰωάννης, A' (969-976)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 13143. Find-spot: the bank of the Danube opposite Silistra. D. 27-31 mm. Thin plate of an indistinct imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов, И.** Оловен отпечатък от матрица за сребърни милиаренсии на Йоан I Цимисхий (969-976). - *Нумизматика*, 4, 1980, 16-17.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cross crosslet with terminal pellets on two steps, having in center a medallion with facing bust of John I, bearded, wearing loros and crown, flanked to l. and r. by I-W || A-N. Circular inscription along borders (three) of dots: +IhSϞSXRI || STϞShICA *

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

--- | +IWAhhI' | ChXWAVTO | CRAT'EVSEb' | bASILEVS | RWMAIW' | ---
+ Ἰωάννι(ς) ἐν Χ(ριστ)ῳ αὐτοκράτ(ωρ) εὐσεβ(ῆς) βασιλεὺς Ῥωμαίων(ν)

The assumption made in the above publication was that this is a sample imprint on a lead plate from a die for silver milliarensia of John I Tzimiskes and attests perhaps to the activity of a campaign mint, which accompanied the emperor's military expedition for conquering eastern Bulgaria. The considerable number of milliarensia discovered in the region of the Lower Danube serves as a corroboration.

Along with that, however, the emperor's correspondence to various individuals and institutions or participants in the campaign could have likewise been sealed. This conclusion was suggested to me by the fact that there are extant seals of the same ruler which are exact copies of his gold coins (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 74).

However, to do justice to data, I have to point out that the lead plate is rather thin and has no channel for suspension, as it ought to have had if it were a lead seal. But this is not the first case of a bulla as thin as a coin.

We obviously have to wait for another such find (obligatory in case it is a lead seal) that will corroborate or rule out this hypothesis.

85-100. Βασίλειος, Β' (976-1025)

Type A: Βασίλειος, Β' καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος, Θ'

85. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 15. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 28-30 (26) 4 mm. W. 20.43 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Мушмов**, Печати, № 9.

86. Archaeological Museum, V. Preslav, no. 29482. Found in the course of archaeological excavations at the Palace Church site, North sector, during unearthing of the innermost third fortress wall which encircled the tsar's and the patriarch's palaces on 27th July 1995. It is a lead plate of a round shape whose lower edge is cut and deformed. Dimensions of the blank: 38-33 mm. Diameter of the dotted circle: 30? mm. Thickness: 3 mm. The surface of the imprint is damaged, covered with oxide nests. Dented as if struck with a sharp object, most probably a nail.

According to the author of the original publication, a coin seal impression in positive from a nomisma of Emperor Basil II and Constantine VIII was made on the plate. He defines the monument as tessera (sphragidia) (**Аладжов**, Средновековна тесера, 99-100).

As regards the imprint itself, it is hard to accept that it is a lead replica of a gold coin, histamenon. At first glance this imprint resembles a lead seal, a bulla. Its dimensions do not correspond to those of Basil II's gold coins, neither of the tetraterons nor of the histamenons. The depiction of the latter is encircled with the characteristic three dotted borders, the diameter of the coin seal is never over 20 mm, while in our case the blank had a diameter of 33 mm and the seal itself about 30 mm. One undoubted proof that it is an imprint from a boulloterion and not from a coin seal is the direction of the obverse and reverse, which is the same and not different as in coins. I suppose the only argument that gave grounds to its finder to associate it with a coin and not a bulla is the lack of a channel. Indeed there is no visible channel, which does not mean that it did not have one. The strike of the boulloterion on the blank was very strong and actually pressed the channel. As a result, the bulla itself was

deformed. There are a number of similar cases of no visible channel among the 3,200 lead seals from the territory of modern Bulgaria documented so far. In some cases however no such channel existed. The imprints of the boulloterion were made on a round plate and not on a lead blank. It is difficult to conclude about their usage. It is hard to say whether they were peculiar symbols standing for their owner's letter or had some other similar functions. The Preslav piece under discussion is certainly not a tessera but most probably a lead seal from the joint reign of Basil II and Constantine VIII. An absolute proof of that is the specimen below which comes from the same boulloterion.

Ed. Йорданов, Жекова, Оловни отпечатьци, с.196, № 7.

87. Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found in the course of excavations near the Palace in the summer of 2006. D. 26-28 mm. Well-centered and complete imprint. Currently with some damages.

Unpublished.

The three specimens seems to have come from the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 423; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 76 (DO. 55. 1. 4307-4308; Seibt, Bleisiegel, no. 18; Seyrig, no. 6; Seibt-Zarnitz, no 1.1.5; Сколова, № 89-95. It is impossible to determine whether they were struck in the same pair of dies as with our specimen.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: IC - XC.

Rev. At l., bust of Basil II bearded, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros. At r., bust of Constantine VIII, beardless, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and chlamys. The two emperors hold between them a long patriarchal cross. Circular inscription along border of dots:

+RASIL'CCO η STA η TI' b'R'

+ Βασίλ(ειος) κ(ἔ) Κονσταντῖ(νος) β(ασιλειῆς) Ῥ(ωμάιον)

Type B: Βασίλειος, Β'

88. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.17550. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav, sq. 173/143, 09. 08. 1979. D. 26-29 (27) 4.5 mm. W. 17. 30. g..

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 2.

89. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.17699. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav, sq. 173/144, 09. 08. 1979. D. 26-29 (27) 4.5 mm. W. 17. 30. g. Badly preserve specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 3.

90. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.22195. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav, West, sq. 12, 07. 04. 1984. D. 28.5-30 (over 29) 4 mm. W. 16. 87 g. Badly preserve specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 4.

91. RHM-Shumen, no. 14223. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 25-28 (?) 4 mm. W. 19.90 g. In a poor state of preservation. Covered with thick lead oxide.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 6; Jordanov,Zhekova, no. 107.

92. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 123. Found in Pliska by the Russian archaeological expedition in Constantinople in 1899. D. 27-30 (25) 3 mm. W. 17.02 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 5; Йорданов, Плиска, № 3.

93. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 325. Found in the course of excavations in the Inner City of Pliska, to the west of the brick pool, square 13/1, on 30th September 1969. D. 25-26.5(25)3 mm. Struck off-center.

The ruler's face was subsequently damaged with a sharp object probably during excavations.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 4.

94-95. National Historical Museum, Bucharest. From the former collection of the college in Silistra. D. 28 and 34 mm. Unsuccessful imprints. Bullae in poor states of preservation.

Ed. Barnea, Empereurs, nos. 10-13.

96. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Found in the course of archaeological excavations in Silistra in 1992. D. 34-35 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

97. RHM-Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 29-30(?) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint and specimen in a poor state of preservation.

Unpublished.

98. Private collection (S. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: village of Zlatna Panega, disc. Lovech. D. 26-28 (28) 4.1 mm. W.20.014 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation. There are five pearls engraved in the nimbus of Christ.

Unpublished.

99. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-30 mm. Good imprint, but the inscription remained outside the blank.

Unpublished.

100. Private collection (A. Radushev from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 35-36 mm. Well-centered, but poorly-preserved imprint. Holed in the upper end.

Unpublished.

101. RHM-Shumen, no. 14719. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-27 (?) 4.5 mm. W. 17.10 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov,Zhekova, no. 108.

102. Private collection. Find-spot: Preslav. Found in the soil dug from the Inner City and dumped on the bank of the river Kamchia. D. 30-32 mm.

Unpublished.

103. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: the village Tsarevtsi, disc. of Varna. D. 28-29 (27) mm. W. 15 g. Once a good imprint now cracked or cut.

Unpublished.

104. RHM-Shumen, no. 14785. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. D. 30-32 mm. W. 27.10 g. Large deformed blank. The surface is corroded and the images are barely visible.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 109

105. RHM-Shumen, no.14863/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-30 mm; W. 21.02 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Holed at one end.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 110.

It is impossible to determine the number of the boulloteria the presented specimens come from.

Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 421; Konstantopoulos, no 280; Laurent, Orghidan, no. 11; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 75 a-c; Лихачев, Молидовулы, табл. LXXVI/8; Соколова, № 96-100.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has nimbus cr. with pellets (two or five) in each limb of the cross, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospel with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: IC-XC. Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΕΜΜΑ || ΝΟVΗΛ

Rev. Bust of Basil II, bearded, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros; holds globus surmounted by cross (r. hand) and akakia (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots: + BASIL' AHTOCRAT': + Βασίλ(ειος) αὐτοκρά(τωρ)

It strikes that almost all bullae were discovered in the main strategic centers of northeastern Bulgaria: Pliska, Preslav and Dristra. They attest to active receipt of correspondence from the central power and from Emperor Basil II specifically. The general reasons are known: in connection with the conquering and administration of these lands; the specific reasons will need further consideration.

106. Μιχαήλ, Δ' (1034-1041)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 40782. Purchased from a private person who argued that the seal was from the southwestern Bulgarian lands (Macedonia). D. 34-36 mm, W. 27.07 g. Complete imprint, off-center. Surface in poor condition, battered, effaced.

Ed. Пенчев, В. Моливдовул на византийския император Михаил IV Пафлогон от фонда на НИМ-София. - *Нумизматика, Сфрагистика и Епиграфика*, 3.2, 2007, 7-9.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 78; Соколова, № 105-106.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has nimbus cr. with pellets (two or five) in each limb of the cross, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospel with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: IC-XC. Circular inscription along border of dots: + || NOVHA

Rev. Bust of Michael IV, bearded, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros; holds globus surmounted by cross (r. hand) and akakia (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΜΙΧΑΗΛ ΑΥΤΟ[κρά(τωρ)]

107-109. Κωνσταντῖνος, Γ' (1042-1055)

107. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 7. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul?) D. 31-33 (28) 5 mm. W. 37.41 Struck off-center to the left. Specimen in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 10.

108. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 767. Find-spot: the town. D. 29.5-31.5 (?) 4 mm. Almost completely obliterated surface on both sides, which questions its belonging to the seals of this ruler.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 26.

109. Private collection (I have this information thanks to V. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: near the village of Stari Debren, at 2 km from the village of Debren. D. 29-30 mm. Well-centered specimen in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, no 79; Лихачев, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LXXVII, 14-15; Seibt-Zarnitz, no 1.1.6; Соколова, № 107-115.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has nimbus cr. with : each limb of cross, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospel with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: IC-XC. Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΕΜΜΑ || NOVHA

Rev. Bust of Constantine IX, bearded, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision

and loros; holds cruciform scepter (r. hand) and globus surmounted by cross (r. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots:
+ CWhSTAh' AHTOC
+ Κωνσταν(τῖνος) αὐτο[κρά(τωρ)]

It is an interesting fact that the seals of this ruler are almost unattested in the Bulgarian lands and specifically in modern northeastern Bulgaria, where mass nomad invasions and active measures against them by the Empire were recorded in the years of his reign. The narrative sources mention letters which the emperor sent to his governors there.

110-114. Κωνσταντῖνος, Κ' (1059-1067)

Type A: (1062-1064)

110. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 6. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 30-30.5 (28) 5 mm. W. 29.38 g. Struck off-center to the left. Subsequently perforated as to be suspended from the document or worn as an icon.

Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 11.

111. RHM-Shumen, no. 14204. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 32-33 (27) 4 mm. W. 28.47 g. The same off-centering as with the above, but only on the reverse with the image of the emperor. Surface deeply corroded.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра /III/, № 9; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 111.

112. RHM-Sliven, no. 134. Found in the course of excavations in the stronghold near the present-day village of Zlati Voyvoda, Sliven region, in square 41.1, at a depth of 0.20 m., on 3rd August 1993. D. 31-31 (27) 3 mm. The same off-centering as with the above. The bulla itself is in a superb state of preservation.

Unpublished.

113. Private collection (A. Radushev, from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain (Varna region). D. 30-32 mm. Complete and well-centered imprint, but with damaged surface and traces of attempted perforation.

Unpublished.

It is hard to maintain with any certitude whether there are specimens struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, nos. 87 a-c (DO. 58. 106. 537; 58. 106. 624; 58. 106. 625; 55. 1. 4327); Лихачев, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LXXVII, 6; Cheynet, Antioch, no 2; Соколова, № 121-124.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has nimbus cr. with flared ends and: in each limb of cross, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospel with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: IC-XC. Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΕΜΜΑ || NOVHA

Rev. Constantine X, bearded, standing, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over the l. fore-arm; holds long labarum (r. hand) and akakia (l. hand). Circular inscription along border of dots

+ ΚΩΝ ΡΑC || ΡΩΜΑΙΩΝ Ο ΔΟΥΚ'

+ Κων(σταντῖνος) βασι(λεὺς) Ῥωμαίων ὁ Δούκ(ας).

Type B: (1065-1067).

114. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 16. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 29-29 (25) 4 mm, W. 17.15 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Мушмов**, Печати, № 12.

Parallels: **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 421; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 88 (DO. 58. 106. 621; 55. 1. 4326); **Лихачев**, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LXXVI, 11; **Seibt-Zarnitz**, no. 1.1.7; **Соколова**, № 126-127.

Obv. Christ, bearded, seated facing on throne with curved back; wears nimbus cr., chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospel with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: IC - XC. Circular inscription along border of dots:

+ ΕΜΜΑ || NOVΗΑ

Rev. At l., Constantine X, bearded, standing, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over the l. wrist; r. hand half-lifted before breast in supplication; in l., globus surmounted by cross. At r., the Virgin, nimbate, standing facing, wears chiton and maphorion ornamented with ✥; r. hand placed on emperor's crown in benediction; l. hand raised before breast in prayer. In central field, $\overline{\text{M}}$ above; at r., $\overline{\Theta}$. Circular inscription:

+ $\overline{\text{KWN}}$ RAC'P'O ΔΟΥΚΑΣ :+ Κων(σταντῖνος) βασι(λεὺς) Ῥ(ωμαίων) ὁ Δούκας.

W. Seibt (*Bleisiegel*, S. 95) suggests the above dating on the basis of the iconographic analysis of the images on the seals taking into consideration the period of reign of this emperor.

The discovery of his two bullae (dated up to 1064) in Dristra, the residence of the katepano of Paristrion, and in the stronghold near the present-day village of Zlati Voyvoda, where a garrison and a military commander of unknown rank were located, attests to the measures of the Empire against the mass Ouzi invasion. These also included a dispatch of a regular army led by the military commanders Basil Apokapes and Nikephoros Botaneiates (for more information on the events and participants, see no. 1130-1133; 1449-1451, the seals of Basil Apokapes).

115. Ῥωμανὸς, Δ', Εὐδοκία, Μιχαήλ, Θ' καὶ Κωνσταντῖνος (1068-1071).

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 18. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 31-34 (28) 5.5 mm. W. 37.80 g. Well-centered imprint, not distinct enough. The bulla seems to be chipped at one end.

Ed. **Мушмов**, Печати, № 14.

Parallel: **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 92.

Obv. In center Christ, bearded standing, crowning with both hands Romanos IV, on l., and Eudokia, on r. Christ wears nimbus cr., chiton and himation. Romanos is bearded and wears crown and pendants, divitision and loros; r. hand is half-raised before him in adoration; l. hand holds globus cr. Eudokia wears crown with pendants and three triangular projections, wide-sleeved divitision and loros; r. hand holds globus cr., l. hand is half-raised in adoration. In upper field l. and r., $\overline{\text{IC}}$ and $\overline{\text{XC}}$. Circular inscription: + ΡΩΜΑΝ ΕΥΔΟΚΙΑ

Rev. In center the Virgin standing blessing with both hands Michael VII, on l., and Constantine, on r.; she wears nimbus, chiton and maphorion. Michael is beardless and wears crown, divitision and loros; r. hand holds globus surmounted by cross; in l. hand akakia. Constantine, beardless, wears crown, divitision and loros whose end falls over l. forearm; r. hand holds akakia; in l. globus. In upper field l. and r., $\overline{\text{MP}}$ and $\overline{\Theta\text{V}}$. Circular

inscription: MX - ...

116-117A. Ῥωμανὸς, Δ', Εὐδοκία, Μιχαήλ, Θ', Κωνσταντῖνος καὶ Ἀνδρόνικος (1068-1071).

116. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 17. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?) D. 30-30.5 (26) 4 mm. W. 27.20 g. Very good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Мушмов**, Печати, № 13.

117. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 189. Find-spot: uncertain. Handed over to the Museum by the Foreign Ministry in 1978. D. 29-32.5 (26) 5.5 mm, W. 35.74 g. Complete imprint on a thick blank in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

117A Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak, no. 248). Find-spot: the village of Dabene, Karlovo municipality. D. 32-33 (?) 5.5 mm. W. 37. 80 g. Incomplete and deformed imprint.

Unpublished.

It is difficult to say whether any of the three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: **Ebersolt**, Constantinople, nos. 148-149; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 93; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, no. 24; **Лихачев**, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LXXVII, 7-9; *Seyrig*, no. 7; **Соколова**, № 128-136.

Obv. As above.

Rev. In center, Michael VII; on l. and r., shorter figures of Constantine and Andronikos. Each is beardless, standing facing on circular footstool and wearing crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros. Michael holds in r. hand labarum ornamented with pellets; in l., akakia. Constantine holds in r. globus surmounted by trefoil ornament; in l., akakia; end of loros falls over his l. forearm. Circular inscription: KWN - MX - ANA

The third son of Constantine X Doukas, Andronikos, who was proclaimed co-emperor a little later, is also represented on this group of seals. Thus its dating is to the end of 1068 or the beginning of 1069 until 1st October 1071, when Romanos IV Diogenes was taken captive in the battle at Mantzikert, although he was de jure basileus until the beginning of 1072.

The discovery of the bullae of Romanos IV Diogenes in the territory of modern Bulgaria and mostly in the Haskovo region attests to the contacts of these lands with the central power and possibly to some extreme measures for the defense of this region.

118-119. Μιχαήλ, Θ' Δούκας (1071-1078)

Type A.

118. Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: Parvomai, disc. Plovdiv. D. 24-30 mm; of the seal itself 24 mm. W. 13.90 g. One third of the specimen is cut or chipped.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 95 (DO. 55. 1. 4334); **Соколова**, № 137-144.

Obv. Christ, bearded, seated on a high-backed throne, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r.

hand) and holding book of the Gospels with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: .. || XC.
 Rev. Michael VII, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over his l. forearm; r. holds long labarum resting on ground; in l., globus surmounted by cross. Circular inscription:
 +MIX.....= + Μιχ[αήλ αὐτοκράτωρ Ῥωμαίων Δούκας]

Type B.

119. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 3. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 27-27.5 (28 ?) 4 mm. W. 20.55 g. The imprint was well-centered, but obviously the blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies; as a result, parts of the depiction and inscription remained outside. Bulla in a good state of preservation.
 Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 15.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Christ, bearded, seated on a high-backed throne, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels with jeweled cover (l. hand).
 Rev. Bust of Michael VII, bearded, facing; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros. It is difficult to say what he holds in his r. hand, since only part of the shaft of the staff or labarum is visible. He holds in l. hand globus surmounted by cross. No circular inscription visible.

The publisher of the seal has identified the emperor with Michael VII Doukas, putting forward as an argument a type of Histamenon of the same emperor (see Wroth, *Catalogue*, Pl. LXII,7; Grierson, *DOC*, III/2, Pl. LXVI,1).

At the lack of parallels, we should accept the arguments of the original publisher of the seal. Indeed, complete similarities between coins and seals of some emperors do exist, but some types of seals remain the same with more than one emperor, in contrast to coins.

120. Νίκηφόρος, Γ' Βοτανειάτης (1078-1081)

RHM-Pernik, no. 360. Discovered in the course of archaeological excavations in square VI/19 at a depth of 0.20-0.40 m on 19th June 1960. D. 31-31 (29) 3 mm. Well-centered imprint. The relief of the obverse is pressed and the inscription on the reverse at the right of the Emperor remained out of the blank.
 Ed. Юркува, Перник, 113-115, табл. II.1.
 Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 423; Konstantopoulos, no. 282; Ebersolt, Constantinople, nos. 150-151; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 98 (DO. 58. 106. 484; 55. 1. 4336); Seibt, Bleisiegel, no. 26; Лихачев, Моливодовулы, табл. LXXVIII, 1; Seibt, Zarnitz, no. 1.1.8; Papaggelos, I. *The Athonite Monastery of Zygon*, Thessaloniki, 2005, p. 36; Соколова, № 145-146.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, facing; has nimbus cr. with pellet in each limb of cross, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospel with jeweled cover (l. hand). Sigla: IC-XC.
 Rev. Nikephoros III, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over his l. forearm; r. holds long labarum resting on ground; in l., globus surmounted by cross. Circular inscription:
 + ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡ' ΔΕΣΠ' Τ' . WROTANIAT'
 + Νίκηφόρ(ω) δεσπ(ό)τ(η) [τ]ῷ Βοταν(ε)ιάτ(η)

What makes the information on this seal important is the fact that it was found in the fortress near Pernik. It could be assumed that this was an ordinary correspondence of the central administration to its local representative. However, having in mind the fact that correspondence of other representatives of the Botaneiates family was also received there, the hypothesis made in the last part of the research that one of this family's estates was located in Pernik has its reasons.

121-194. Ἀλέξιος, Α' Κομνηνός (1081-1118)

Type A.

121. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21589. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-30 (over 30) 3-4 mm. W. 21.17 g. Well-centered, but poorly preserved specimen, deeply corroded.
 Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 8; Йорданов, Комнини, № 1.
122. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 25706. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-29 (over 26) 5 mm. W. 18.50 g. Incomplete imprint, in a good state of preservation.
 Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 9; Йорданов, Комнини, № 2.
123. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24814. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voivoda, disc. Sliven. D. 28-30(27?) 5 mm, W. 23.11. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
 Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voivoda, no. 1; Йорданов, Комнини, № 3.
124. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 4. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 30-33 (28) 5 mm. W. 21.44 g. Well-centered and complete imprint but some letters are effaces.
 Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 16.
125. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 5. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 30-33 (27.9) 3 mm. W. 18.62 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation. The reverse is slightly displaced, but is nevertheless on the blank.
 Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 17.
126. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 38. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-29 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 18.93 g. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation. No traces of the inscription visible.
 Unpublished.
127. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 134 (from the former Avramov Collection). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-27.5 (over 27) 4 mm. W. 16.40 g. The imprint is slightly off-centered. Specimen in a poor state of preservation.
 Unpublished.
128. Private collection (S. Petrov from Haskovo). Find-spot: Chala fortress on the land of the village of Goliam Izvor, Haskovo region. D. 31-31 (28) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, especially the inscription.
 Ed. Йорданов-Аладжов, Хасковско, № 2; Йорданов, Комнини, № 6.
129. Historical Museum, Asenovgrad, no. 1530. Find-spot: Asen's fortress. D. 30.5-31(27) 4.1 mm. Incomplete imprint, as the above.
 Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 1; Йорданов, Комнини, № 7.
130. Private collection (Y. Todorov from Shumen). He has purchased it from the Numismatic Club in Burgas. My supplementary information from Burgas is that its find-spot is the fortress near the village of Melnitsa, Elhovo region. D. 27.5-30(27?) 4.5 mm. Superb specimen.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no.2 ; **Йорданов**, Комнини, № 8.

131. Private collection (D. Dimitrov from Pernik). Find-spot: the land of the village of Belozem, Plovdiv region. D. 30-30 mm.
Ed. **Йорданов**, Комнини, № 9.

132. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-28 mm. Good specimen.
Ed. **Йорданов**, Комнини, № 10.

133. Private collection (A. Radushev, from Sofia). According to the former owner, the bulla was found in Preslav. D.26-29 (?) 5 mm. W. 18.90 g. Incomplete imprint of irregular shape.
Ed. **Йорданов**, Комнини, № 11.

134. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Find-spot: uncertain (region of Doulovo ?). D. 30-33 (29) 3 mm. W. 18.80 g. Imprint in an excellent state of preservation. The inscription and some other parts of the dies did not print.
Ed. **Йорданов**, Комнини, № 12.

135. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: village of Konush, disc. Haskovo. D. 28-29 (26) mm, W. 15.20 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.

136. Historical Museum, Asenovgrad, no.19660. Find-spot: the region of Sts Cyrik and Jolanta Monastery to the southwest of Asenovgrad. D. 25-27 mm. A piece broken.
Unpublished.

136A. Archaeological Museum, Varna, no. VIII 240. Find-spot: in ploughed up a field between the villages of Drandar and Voyvodino, disc. of Varna. D. 30-31.5 mm, W. 22. 57 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. **Йотов, В.** Нов печат на Алексей Комнин.- *Нумизматични, сфрагистични и епиграфски приноси към историята на Черноморското крайбрежие. Acta Musei Varnensis*, VII-2, Varna, 2008, 172-176.

136B. In a private collection. Find-spot: village of Vodno, disc. of Silistra. D. 30-31 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. **Йотов, Й., Николов, Н.** Походът на Алексей I Комнин към Дръстър (1087 г.). Нови данни и интерпретация (in press)

137-192. Unknown place of preservation. I had the chance to examine them but did not document them. They were confiscated by the police in Russe and the expert (a student of mine from Turnovo University) showed them to me for consultation. I have illustrations of only 4 specimens.
Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 418. no. 4; Панченко, Каталог, № 10; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 102; Seibt, Bleisiegel, no. 27; Лихачев, Моливдовулы, табл. LXXVIII,2-6; Соколова, № 147-164.

Obv. Christ, bearded, seated on a high-backed throne, wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding book of the Gospels with jeweled cover (l. hand). In field l. and r., sigla: IC-XC.

Rev. Alexios I, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over his l. forearm; r. holds long labarum resting on ground; in l., globus surmounted by cross. Circular inscription:
+ ΑΛΕΞΙΩ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΩ ΚΟΜΝΗΝΩ
+ Ἀλεξίῳ δεσπότη(ῃ) τῷ Κομνηνῷ

Type B.

193. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: Plovdiv region. D. 17-17 (?) 2 mm. It has a channel for suspension, therefore it was affixed to a correspondence.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Комнини, № 13.

Parallel: Schlumberger, Sig., p.79

Obv. At l., St. Demetrios, nimbate, beardless, standing facing; wears short military tunic, breastplate and sagion, holds sword in r. hand; he hands to the emperor labarum on long shaft. At r., John II, beardless, standing on dais; wears divitision and loros; l. hand half-raised in adoration. Remnants of an inscription

Rev. Standing figures of Alexios I at l., and Irene at r., holding between them patriarchal cross on long shaft. Both wear crown, divitision and loros. Traces of a circular inscription: + ΑΛΕΞΙΩ.

What kind of seals were these and what were they used for? In **Schlumberger, Sig.**, p. 79, it is assumed that these are tesserae or sphragida. In one specimen published by me (**Йорданов**, Комнини, № 13) the channel is also preserved which means that it was attached to a correspondence.

The personages represented on the seal are in connection with the proclamation of John Komnenos co-emperor of his father Alexios I Komnenos in September 1092. Scyphate coins of similar subject marking the beginning of a new type of coinage that survived down to the fall of the Empire were struck on this occasion. More than 60 specimens were discovered and documented from the territory of modern Bulgaria. They had other usage most probably of counters, coupons or tesseras but not seals. For this reason they are not included in the present research with the exception of the specimen with a channel. Illustrations of several specimens are included for reference (see **Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 113**)

Type C.

194. Archaeological Museum Sofia, no. 112. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-16 (15) 2 mm. W. 4.36 g. Complete and relatively well-preserved specimen.
Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of Christ blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Bust of Alexios I with stemma, divitision and loros; holds scepter (r. hand) and a globus surmounted with a cross (l. hand). Remains of the inscription: ΑΛ.

Actually this is a lead coin with direction of the obverse inscription as in seals and of the reverse as in coins. But it is lead. I wonder whether it is not a tessera as the above cases.

The distribution of the seals of Alexios I Komnenos is in conformity with his activities in the Bulgarian lands, particularly in the first decades of his reign.

One find which is not yet sufficiently documented serves as a testimony to the dramatic events of 1087 in northeastern Bulgaria.

Fifty-five whole lead seals and some fragmentary ones of Alexios I Komnenos were discovered in the same place generally in Silistra region. Threads from a string were preserved in the channels of some of them. These are remains perhaps of the imperial mail which was being carried by a courier to its addressees and was hindered by the dramatic events. It is not

a matter of chance that the emperor himself covered the distance from Dristra to Goloe in southern Bulgaria for one night.

195-196. Μανουήλ, Α' Κομνηνός (1143-1180)

195. Private collection (a collector from the village of Malko Drianovo, Stara Zagora region). Found on the land of the village in the course of field work. D. 41-44 (37) 4.1 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint, holed in center, later the opening was filled in.
Ed. Йорданов, Комнини, № 17.

196. RHM Shumen, no. 15509. Formerly in the collection of V. Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: on the land of the village of Mustrak, south of it, most probably at one of the Maritsa tributaries 20 km from Svilengrad. D. 40-41 (33)? mm. W. 44.10 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint. The inscription containing the name of the ruler is almost completely obliterated.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Laurent, *Vatican*, no. 13; Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 107 (DO. 58. 106. 670; 55. 1. 4350; 77. 34. 103, Spink 127, no. 4); Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, no. 29; Seyrig, no. 8; Cheynet, *Antioche*, no. 3; Seibt-Zarnitz, no. 1.1.9; Соколова, № 166-172.

Obv. Youthful bust of Christ, facing; has nimbus cr. with \div in each limb of cross; wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding scroll (l. hand). Sigla: $\overline{\text{IC}}-\overline{\text{XC}}$. Vertical inscription in two columns: O | ϵ M | MA - N8 | HA

Rev. Manuel I, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with cross with pendants, divitision and loros which falls over the l. arm; holds short labarum decorated with pellets (r. hand) and akakia (l. hand). Circular inscription:
+MAN8HAΔECPOT' - TΩΠOP
+ Μανουήλ δεσπότη τῷ πορ[φυρογεννήτῳ]

The discovery of the bulla in Stara Zagora region, where the emperor himself spent the winter of 1154-1155, is easy to explain and logical. He set orders and respectively got reports by his military commanders located near Beroe.

197-199. Ἰσαάκιος, Β' Ἀγγελος (1185-1195)

Type A.

197. Private collection (V. Varbanov from Elkhovo, currently in the National Historical Museum, Sofia). Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, disc. Elkhovo. D. 42-45 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 29; Йорданов, Комнини, № 18.

Parallels: Barnea, *Empereurs*, no. 14; Лихачев, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LXXIX, 1; Seibt, *Zarnitz*, 1.1.10; Соколова, № 174.

Obv. Christ bearded, seated on backless throne, wears chiton and himation; blesses (r. hand) and holds book of the Gospels (l. hand). In field l. and r., sigla: $\overline{\text{IC}}-\overline{\text{XC}}$.

Rev. Isaakios II, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over his l. forearm; holds a cruciform scepter (r. hand) and akakia (l. hand). In upper r. field, *manus Dei*. Vertical inscription at l. and r.: I-CAA-KI-OC || ΔΕC-ΠO-T' : Ἰσαάκιος δεσπότης(ης).

Type B.

198. RHM-Stara Zagora, no. 155. Found on the land of the village of Zemlen, Stara Zagora region, but outside the fortress in 1930s. D. 48-50 (35) 5 mm. Once a good imprint, now heavily damaged. Only traces of letters from the inscription are preserved; its restoration would need a modicum of imagination.
Ed. Йорданов, Комнини, № 19.

199. RHM-Veliko Turnovo, no. VIII 233. According to the information of the diseased colleague Atanas Pisarev, it was found in the course of excavations on Tsarevets. D.36-36 (33) 4 mm. Well-centered, but weak and indistinct imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Комнини, № 20.

It is impossible to determine whether the two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Seibt-Zarnitz, no.1.1.10; Соколова, № 175.

Obv. Christ bearded, seated on a backless throne, wears chiton and himation; blesses (r. hand) and holds book of the Gospels (l. hand). In field l. and r., sigla: $\overline{\text{IC}}-\overline{\text{XC}}$.

Rev. Isaakios II, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over his l. forearm; holds a cruciform scepter (r. hand) and akakia (l. hand). In upper r. field, *manus Dei*. Circular inscription:
+ICAAKIOC BACIAEVC || PWMAIWN O AΓΓΕΛOC
+ Ἰσαάκιος βασιλεὺς Ῥωμαίων ὁ Ἀγγελος.

Only traces of letters from the inscription of the first specimen are preserved. They can be deciphered as follows: +ICAAKIOC BACIAEVC || PWMAIWN O AΓΓΕΛOC. The inscription is unusual. In the XIIth c., the title of the emperor is different, as illustrated above. Is it not an archaism which Isaakios II Angelos sought in order to distinguish himself from the Komnenoi already fallen into disgrace?

There is no inscription on the second specimen. It is to a certain extent similar to the Zemlen one, thus giving me reasons to accept them as having belonged to one ruler.

When presenting Isaakios II Angelos' lead seal of the above type, N. P. Lihachev (see Лихачев, *Моливдовулы*, с. 266) reported of another seal from the British Museum bearing a similar text: + Ἰσαάκιος βασιλεὺς Ῥωμαίων ὁ Ἀγγελος (?). No such seal is described in the catalogue of seals of the British Museum. It is impossible for me to check whether it applies to Isaakios I Komnenos.

Type C.

200. Archaeological Museum, Varna, no VIII 233. Find-spot: the fortress near the present-day Simeonovgrad. D. 45-45 (27) 5 mm, D. 62.77 g. Heavily worn-out specimen. The images on both sides are almost completely obliterated. The letters are in a better state of preservation; some of them are preserved only at their base.

Ed. Йорданов, И. Неизвестен византийски императорски печат от XIII в.- *Нумизматика и сфрагистика*, 1, 1999, 91-95; Йорданов, Комнини, N 21.

No parallels known.

Obv. Christ bearded, seated on a backless throne; wears chiton and himation; blesses (r. hand) and holds book of the Gospels (l. hand). No sigla visible.

Rev. Isaakios II, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with cross and pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over his l. forearm; r. hand half-raised before him

in adoration; in l., akakia. Vertical inscription at l. and r.:

ICAA-KIOCE-NXOTW-ΘWΠIC-BA-CIAE-VC || KAIA-TOKPAT-OPPOM - AIONO
- KOMNH - NOC
+ Ἰσαάκιος ἐν Χ(ριστῷ) τῷ Θεῷ πισ[τὸς] βασιλεὺς καὶ αὐτοκράτωρ
Ῥωμαίων ὁ Κομνηνός.

There is only one emperor bearing these names in Byzantine history: Isaakios I Komnenos 1057-1059. His seals are known in the literature. They have a different iconography, style, titulature and mostly paleography of the letters (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, nos. 85-86). All that renders the identification of the emperor from the present seal with Isaakios I Komnenos impossible.

The title ἐν Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ πιστὸς βασιλεὺς καὶ αὐτοκράτωρ Ῥωμαίων ὁ Κομνηνός is earliest attested on XIIIth-century seals. Exactly the same titles are inscribed on extant seals of John Doukas Komnenos (1242-1244, see **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 115; **Oikonomides**, *Dated*, no. 132). The characteristic paleography of the letters and the ligature of some of them date them to the beginning of the XIIIth c. at the earliest. All that excludes the person of Isaakios I Komnenos. We can now consider Isaakios II again. He was emperor from 1185 until 1195, when he was dethroned by a coup and blinded by his brother. In July 1203, when the crusaders appeared before the walls of Constantinople, he was reinstated on the throne, although the power was actually in the hands of his son and co-ruler Alexios IV. This situation continued until the end of January 1204, when the next coup was made resulting in the execution of Isaakios and his son.

It could be assumed that this seal reflects precisely the period under study, when the dynastic name Komnenos had to become popular instead of the disreputable Angelos.

The discovery of Isaakios II Angelos' lead seals in the Bulgarian capital Veliko Turnovo as well as in modern southern Bulgaria (the village of Zemlen, Stara Zagora region, the village of Melnitsa, Yambol region, and the fortress near modern Simeonovgrad) seems quite natural in the context of the events and relationships between the two states.

201. Δαβὶδ Κομνηνός (1204-1214)

I have no information of its current location. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul). I did not have the opportunity to work with the original; however, judging by the photo, it is perhaps a case of a cast of the original. D. 45-46 (?) 6 mm. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the depiction and inscription are out of the blank.

Ed. **Мущмов**, Печати, № 21.

Parallels: **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 425; **Веглери**, Г. П. Печать трапезунтского императора Давида.- *ИРАИК*, VIII, 1902, 247-248; **Ebersolt**, *Constantinople*, no 162; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 2754; **Лихачев**, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LXXXI, 2-3.

Obv. King David, bearded, seated on a backless throne; wears crown with pendants and imperial robes; holds tripartite scepter in r. hand, in l., akakia. In field l. and r., vertical inscription: O-BACI-AEV-C || K.... - ... - .. (ὁ βασιλεὺς κ(αὶ).....)

Rev. Vertical inscription of six lines:

ΔΑΔ RACIAE | ACΦAΛECΓPA | ΦWNKVPOC: | ΔΑΔKOMNHNOV | RACIAEΓTO
| N8ΓINOV
Δα(βὶ)δ βασιλε(ὺς) ἀσφαλες γραφῶν κύρος Δα(βὶ)δ Κομνηνοῦ βασιλεγκόγνου
γίνου

After the enumeration of publications of similar seals, it will only be necessary perhaps to summarize the evolution in the dating of this type of seals. At the beginning, it was dated to the XVth c. on the assumption that it was affixed to the correspondence of the last emperor of Trapezous, who sold his state to the Turkish sultan Mohamed II (see **Веглери**, Г. П. Печать трапезунтского императора Давида.- *ИРАИК*, VIII, 1902, 247-248). It is now accepted that it was a seal of the first emperor of Trapezous after April 1204 (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, 1572-1573).

202. Ἑρρίκος Φλάντρας (1206 - 1216)

RHM-Veliko Turnovo. Found in the course of excavations on Tsarevets. D. 41 mm. W. 42.75 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Цочев**, М. Моливдовул на латинския, константинополски император Хенрих, открит при разкопките на Царевец.- *Нумизматика*, 2, 1987, 24-25.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 112 (DO. 58. 106. 632, *Spink* 132, no. 157-158).

Obv. Henry seated on a backless throne; wears crown with pendants and imperial robes; holds cruciform scepter in r. hand; in l., globus surmounted by cross. The throne is decorated with animal heads. The head of the emperor protrudes into the border. Circular inscription between two borders of dots, beginning at 1 o'clock:

+ ΕΡΡΙΚΟΣ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΣ : + Ἑρρίκος δεσπότης

Rev. Henry rides horse galloping to r.; wears armour and holds (r. hand) uplifted sword; in. l. shield. The helmeted head of the emperor and the legs and tail of the horse project into the border, thus breaking the continuity of the inscription. Circular inscription between two borders of dots, beginning at 12 o'clock:

HENRICVS DIGRAT'IPRT'ROMAN' : Henricus D(e)i grat(ia) I(m)p(e)r(a)t(or)
Roman(iae).

Henry de Eno, brother of Emperor Baldwin, was proclaimed regent of the emperor after the capture of the latter in the battle at Adrianoupolis (14 April 1205). He was officially crowned emperor on 20th August 1206, after the death of the previous emperor was confirmed. He died in Thessalonike on 11th June 1216.

The correspondence impressed with the seal of Emperor Henry was received in the Bulgarian capital Turnovo generally in the period 1206-1216. It is however more likely to have happened after the allied relationships between Bulgaria and the Latin empire were established and strengthened by the marriage of Henry to Kaloian's daughter in 1213 (see **Данчева-Василева**, А. *България и Латинската империя* 1204-1261, С., 1985, 74-75, 104-105).

203. Ροβέρτος (1221-1228).

RHM-Veliko Turnovo. Found in the course of archaeological excavations on Tsarevets, site 22, square 74/5. D. 40-42 /40/ 4 mm. W. 41.78 g. Superb imprint of well-preserved high relief.

Ed. **Овчаров**, Т. Новооткрит печат на Царевец. - *Нумизматика*, 4, 1979, 5-8.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no 113 a-b (DO. 55. 1. 4353).

Obv. Robert seated on backless throne; wears crown with pendants and imperial robes; holds cruciform scepter in r. hand; in l., globus surmounted by cross. The throne is decorated with animal heads. The head of the emperor protrudes into the border. Circular inscription between two borders of dots beginning at 1 o'clock:

ΡΟΒΕΡΤΟΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΣ : Ροβέρτος δεσπότης

Rev. Robert rides horse galloping to r.; wears armour and holds uplifted sword (r. hand) and shield (l. hand). The helmeted head of the emperor and the legs and tail of the horse project into the border. Circular inscription between two borders of dots beginning at 12 o'clock: ROB'TIDIGRA'IMPATOROMANIA = Rob(er)ti(us) D(e)i gra(tia) Imp(er)ato(r) Romania.

Robert of Courtenay was chosen emperor in 1219, but managed to arrive and occupy the throne in Constantinople only in 1221. On his way from France to the Latin empire he went through Bulgaria. After the revolt of his barons in 1227, he fled to the Pope in Rome seeking support. He died in Achaia in 1228 on his way to Constantinople. There are no available facts about negotiations or generally about any relationships with Bulgaria, but perhaps such did exist. There must have been at least a message on the legitimacy of the new ruler. It is also possible that Robert of Courtenay sought the support of the Bulgarian ruler John II Assen for his restoration on the throne after the escape to Rome. All that explains the receipt in the Bulgarian capital of correspondence impressed with the seal of this emperor.

204. Βαλδουῖνος, Β' Φλάντρας (1228-1261)

RHM-Pleven, no. 1450. Found in the course of excavations in the central nave of the early Christian basilica in Kailuka locality near Pleven, at a depth of 0.60 m., in 1962. D. 44.5-45 (around 43) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint; the bulla itself is in a poor state of preservation, battered and with obliterated fields. Holed in the upper part: perhaps suspended from a document or worn as a medallion.

Ed. Генова, Е. Оловен печат на латинския император Балдуин II от средновековната крепост Плевен. - *Нумизматика*, 3, 1985, 12-15.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, no 114 a-b (DO. 55. 1. 4354, *Spink* 132, no. 159).

Obv. Baldwin II seated on backless throne; wears crown with pendants and imperial robes; holds cruciform scepter in r. hand; in l., globus surmounted by cross. Circular inscription between two borders of dots: ΒΑΛΔ8ΙΝΟC.....ΦΛΑ Βαλδουῖνος [δεσπότης πορφυρογέννιτος ό] Φλά[ντρας]

Rev. Baldwin II rides horse galloping to r.; wears crown with pendants and military dress; holding a scepter surmounted by cross over crescent (r. hand) and reins before breast (l. hand). Circular inscription between two borders of dots: ..LDVINVS..... : [Ba]lduinus [Dei gratia Imperator Augustus Romania.

The discovery in Bulgaria of a lead seal of Baldwin II is better substantiated than that of Robert's. It is known through Baldwin that the Bulgarian tsar designed complicated diplomatic and dynastic schemes for strengthening the Bulgarian influence in Constantinople. It is also known that there was an engagement between the minor (two or three years old) Helen and the ten-year-old Baldwin, and that the Bulgarian tsar was proclaimed regent (for the events, see **Божилев, Гюзелев**, *България*, 1, 482-484). The presence of the bulla in the specific environment in the basilica in Pleven is more difficult to explain; however,

assumptions including those made by its publisher are possible.

205-206. Θεόδωρος, Α' Κομνηνός ό Λάσκαρης (1208-1222)

205. RHM-Veliko Turnovo, no. 4166. Find-spot: uncertain; generally, from the area of the present-day Cholakovtsi Housing Estate, to the west of Veliko Turnovo. D. 33.5-36 (?) 3.5-5 mm. W. 31.986 g. Well-centered imprint, but nevertheless the die bearing the image of the emperor was made slightly to the right, as a result parts of the inscription with the dynastic names remained out of the blank. Specimen in a superb state of preservation.

Ed. Харитонов, Х. Моливдовул на никейския император Теодор I Ласкарис.-*Известия на Историческия музей*, Велико Търново, XIV, 1999, 177-181.

206. RHM-Shumen, no. 15037/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-36 mm. W. 12.38 g. Fragment smaller than a half. Its identification is on the basis of a published specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 114.

No parallels known.

Obv. Christ, bearded, standing facing on a souppendion; wears chiton and himation; r. hand extended in benediction; in l., book of the Gospel. In field l. and r., sigla: IC-XC.

Rev. Theodore I, standing facing on round dais; wears forked beard, crown with pendants, divitision and chlamys; r. hand uplifted, holds long labarum resting on the ground; in l., globus surmounted by patriarchal cross. Vertical inscription on l. and r.:

ΘΕ-Ο-ΔΩ-ΡΟC-ΔΕC-ΠΟ-Τ || ο-ΚΟ.-ο...-ΚΑ-Ρ.

Θεόδωρος δεσπότης) ό Κο[μνηνός]) ό [Λάσ]καρ[ις]

We cannot be absolutely sure in the proposed restoration due to incompleteness of the patronyms. Another type of seals of Theodore I Laskaris is known bearing a representation of St. Theodore Stratelates on the obverse and almost the same image and inscription on the reverse (see Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 116).

On the basis of the seals of the next Nicaean rulers John III Doukas and Michael VIII Palaiologos we draw the conclusion that the image of Christ Chalkites is obligatory and presumably official for the imperial state symbols. The present seal should be dated to the second half or the end of Theodore I Laskaris' reign, when he and his state firmly established themselves; thus representations of Christ Chalkites appear quite naturally on his seals.

The discovery of Theodore I Laskaris' lead seal near the Bulgarian capital attests to realized contacts between the Bulgarian and Nicaean rulers which undoubtedly existed. It may well be that the correspondence of the Nicaean emperor was received in Turnovo on the occasion of the enthronement of the new Bulgarian ruler John Asen II in 1218.

The type of seals bearing the image of St. Theodore Stratelates was affixed to the correspondence of the Nicaean ruler in the early period of formation of his state.

207. 'Ιωάννης Γ' Δούκας Βατάτζης (1222-1254)

RHM-Veliko Turnovo. Found in the course of archaeological excavations on Tsarevets, site 12, in 1974. D. 32-36 (?) 4 mm. W. 26.00 g. The blank was smaller for the whole imprint, but the difficulties with the ruler's identification arise from the condition of the bulla. Its surface was scratched with a sharp object; these are perhaps graffiti.

Ed. Писарев, А. Византийски оловен печат от хълма Царевец.- *Нумизматика*, 4, 1978, 16-18.
Parallels: Laurent, *Vatican*, no 14; Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 118b (*Spink*, 127, no. 5); Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, no 30; Лихачев, *Молитовулы*, табл. LXXIX, 3; Соколова, № 177. Only the parallels not containing the epithet of Christ Chalkites are given.

- Obv.* Christ, bearded, standing facing on a souppedion; wears chiton and himation; r. hand extended in benediction; in l., book of the Gospel. In field l. and r., sigla: IC - XC.
Rev. John III, bearded, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with pendants, divitision and chlamys; r. hand uplifted holding long labarum resting on ground; in l., globus surmounted by patriarchal cross.

The inscription is completely obliterated. The identification is made on the basis of the cited parallel specimen from Zacos Collection.

Despite the poor condition of the bulla the cited parallel specimens as well as the correspondence in the coins of the same ruler (see Hendy, *Coinage*, Pl. XXXIII, 9) give us grounds to assume that this is a seal affixed to correspondence of John III Batatzes to the Bulgarian ruler's court in Turnovo. In the light of the Bulgarian-Nicaean relationships there were numerous occasions for that.

208. Μιχαήλ, Γ' Παλαιολόγος (1261-1282).

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna) Find-spot: uncertain. D.20-35 (30) 5 mm. W. 2.20 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 121 bis (b); Соколова, № 184-185.

- Obv.* Christ, bearded standing facing on a souppedion; wears chiton and himation; r. hand extended in benediction; in l., book of the Gospel. In field at r., sigla: .. || XC.
Rev. Michael I, standing facing on round dais; wears crown with pendants, divitision and loros whose end falls over the l. forearm; r. hand uplifted holds long labarum resting on the ground. Vertical inscription at l. Μ-Δ.-ΠΟ-.....= Μ(ι) [χ(α)λ] δ[ε]σ[τ]ό[της] ὁ Παλαιολόγος]

209. Θεοδώρα Δούκαινα ή Παλαιολογήνα (1258-1282).

Private collection. Offered for purchase at the Historical Museum in Yambol, but its owner, disagreeing with the offered price, withdrew it. Information on this bulla was presented to me by D. Draganov. Find-spot: generally southeastern Bulgaria. D. 32-34 mm.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 422; Gray-Birch, *Catalogue*, no 17463; Konstantopoulos, no 284; Laurent, *Vatican*, nos. 15-16; Zacos, *Seals*, I, no.122 a-d; Лихачев, *Молитовулы*, табл. LXXIX,4-6; Соколова, № 187-195.

- Obv.* The Virgin seated frontally on a backless throne; wears chiton and maphorion, holding Christ on her lap. In upper field l. and r., sigla: MP || ΘV.
Rev. Theodora standing facing; wears crown with pendants, wide-sleeved divitision and loros; holds scepter with trefoil top in l. hand; attitude of r. hand indistinct. Vertical inscription at l. and r.:
 +ΘΕΟ-ΔΩΡΑ-ΕΥΣΕ-ΒΕΤΑ-ΤΗΑΥ-Γ89Α || Δ8K-AINA-ΗΠΑΛ-ΑΙΟΛΟ-ΓΗΝΑ

+ Θεοδώρα εὐσεβεστάτη αὐγούστα Δούκαινα ή Παλαιολογήνα

Theodora was daughter of sebastokrator Isaakios Doukas, brother of Emperor John III Vatatzes, and wife of Emperor Michael VIII Palaiologos (1258-1282). She was born ca. 1240, married Michael Palaiologos in 1253 and died on 4th March 1303.

Although the exact find-spot of the bulla is not specified, its presence in the villages of modern southeastern Bulgaria is fairly logical. That was a disputed territory between Bulgaria and Byzantium and many settlements were once a Byzantine territory. Even if they belonged to the Bulgarian state, the sending of correspondence of the Byzantine empress to some of them is quite natural, for example, to some monastery or other similar institutions.

210-212. Ἀνδρόνικος, Β' Παλαιολόγος (1282-1328)

Type A.

210. RHM-Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 34-35 (?) 4 mm. Once a good imprint, now in a poor state of preservation. The restoration of the inscription is made on the basis of the parallel specimens below.
 Ed. Пенчев, В. Няколко редки византийски нумизматически и сфрагистически паметници от фонда на ИМ-Бургас. - *Минало*, 1, 1997, 41-45..

211. Archaeological Museum of Plovdiv, no. 6003. Former collection of V. Stankov, Batak, no. 1. Find-spot: the fortress "Tsepina", near the village of Doprkovo, disc. Pazardzhik. D. 26.4-34 mm. W. 21.94 g. Once a complete and well-centered imprint, but now with chipped upper part.
Unpublished.

211A. RHM-Kardzhali. Find-spot: village of Chereshitsa, disc. of Kardzali. D. 26-27 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.
 Ed. Овчаров, Н., Коджаманова, Д., Димитров, З. Скален град Перперикон.- *Българска археология*, 2008, София, 2008, с. 96
Parallels: Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 423; Laurent, *Vatican*, no. 17; Zacos, *Seals*, I, no 123 a-c; Лихачев, *Молитовулы*, табл. LXXX,1; Соколова, № 196-202.

- Obv.* Christ, bearded standing facing on a souppedion; wears chiton and himation; r. hand extended in benediction; in l., book of the Gospel. No sigla visible.
Rev. Andronikos II, standing facing on round dais; wears forked beard, crown with pendants, divitision and loros which falls over his l. arm; r. hand uplifted, holds long labarum resting on the ground; in l., akakia. Vertical inscription on l. and r.:
 a) Α-Ι-ΔΡ-ΟΝ-ΙΚΟС-ΔΕС-ΠΟ. || ΗС-Ο-ΠΑΛ-.-ΟΛΟ-Γ..
 b) Α-Ν-ΔΡΟ-ΝΙΚ-.... || ...-Π-Α-ΛΕ-ΟΛΟ - ΓΟ-С
 Ἀνδρόνικος δεσπό[τ]ης ὁ Παλαιολόγος

Type B

212. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 188. Find-spot: uncertain. It was passed on to the museum by Nikola Mangarov in 1978. D. 30-30.5 (25) 4 mm. W. 22.86 g. Once a complete and well-centered imprint. Now corroded surface covered with mold Indistinct relief.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, no 123bis; Соколова, № 205, where she attributed it to Andronikos III Palaiologos (1328-1341).

Obv. Christ, bearded standing facing in front of low thokos; wears chiton and himation; r. hand extended in benediction; in l., book of the Gospel. Sigla: $\overline{\text{IC}}-\overline{\text{XC}}$.

Rev. Andronikos II, standing facing on round dais; wears forked beard, crown with pendants, divitision and loros which falls over his l. arm; r. hand holding a scepter and akakia in l. hand. Circular inscription beginning at r.

ΑΗΔΡΟΝΙΚΟΣΔΕΣΠΟΤ || ΗΣΟΠΑΛΑΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ

Ἀνδρόνικος δεσπότης ὁ Παλαεολόγος

213-215. Ἄννα Παλεολογίνα (1341-1347).

213. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.19. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-28 (27) 4 mm. W. 22.28 g. Good imprint, but slightly off-center on the reverse.

Ed. Schlumberger, *Inedits*, no. 172; *Мушмов*, *Печати*, № 20.

214. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv. Find-spot: the town. D.30-30(26) 4 mm. Slightly off-center on the reverse. Bulla in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 5.

215. RHM-Shumen, no. 15070. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 66. Find-spot: Kardzhali region. Cut fragment of what was once a good imprint. W. 3.70 g. The restoration of the image and text is on the basis of the cited parallels.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 115

216. RHM-Shumen. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 231. Find-spot: the land of the village of Pastrovo to the west of Stara Zagora. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Effaced surface. Punctured with a pointed object, perhaps a nail. D. 36-37 (33) 3.9-4.9 mm. W. 38.22 g.

Unpublished

The four specimen were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, no 127 a-c; Соколова, № 206.

Obv. The Virgin seated frontally on a backless throne, wears chiton and maphorion, holds Christ on her lap. In upper field l. and r., sigla: MP || Θ V.

Rev. Anna standing facing; wears crown with pendants, wide-sleeved divitision and loros; holds scepter with jeweled top in l. hand; r. hand half-raised before chest in supplication.

Vertical inscription at l. and r.:

a) ANN-ΕΥCΕ-ΕΦΑ-ΥΓ-... || AV-TOK-PATO.-ICAPΟ.-ΕΟΝΗΠ-ΑΛΕΟΛ-ΟΓΙ-NA

b) AN.-ΑΕΥCΕ-ΕΦΑ-ΤΑΥΓ-8Φ-A || AV-TOK-PATO.-ICAPOM-ΕΟ.-ΑΛΕΟ.-ΟΓΙ-NA

c) ... || ...-ΕΟΝΗΠ-ΑΛΕΟΛ-ΟΓ...

Ἄννα εὐσε[β]εστάτ(η) αὐγούστα αὐτοκρατόρισα Ῥωμαέον ἡ Παλεολογίνα

The empress is not identified in Schlumberger's publication. Mushmov assumes that it is the wife of John VIII Palaiologos (1423-1448). She has recently been identified with Anna of Savoy, wife of Emperor Andronikos III Palaiologos (1328-1341). After his death on 15th June 1341, the mother empress Anna of Savoy Palaiologina, Patriarch John Kalekas, the grand doux Alexios Apokaukos and the grand domestikos John Kantakouzenos were proclaimed regents of the minor emperor John V Palaiologos (1341-1391). Soon after that, there was a conflict between the regents, which subsequently grew into a civil war between the

capital and provincial nobility. At the head of the capital aristocracy was Alexios Apokaukos supported by the mother empress, and the provincial was headed by John Kantakouzenos. The hostilities had variable success. Both parties sought as ally the Bulgarian tsar John Alexander (1331-1371). In 1343/1344, John Kantakouzenos launched an offensive in a region of the Rhodope mountains with the help of Turkish allies. In order to counteract the mother empress turned to John Alexander for help. In his return he wanted nine towns to be given into his possession, namely "Tzepina, Kritzimos, Peristitsa, St. Justina, Philipopolis (a large and remarkable town), Aetos, Beadnos and Kosnikos" (see Kantakouzenos, *Historia*, III, 66, p. 406.20-22). We learn further from the history of John Kantakouzenos that John Alexander received these towns but refused to send his army against the Turks and Kantakouzenos (for the events, see Божилов, Гюзелев, България, I, 594-596).

The important thing is that until 1344 Plovdiv belonged to the central government headed by Anna of Savoy Palaiologina; it was yielded into Bulgarian possession for promised help. On this occasion the empress must have sent her order for implementation to the local governor.

The discovery in Plovdiv of a bulla of that same Anna of Savoy Palaiologina could be in connection with these events.

It is also possible that the seal was also affixed to some other correspondence of the capital government. In 1344-1345, the regency headed by Anna of Savoy entered into negotiations with John Kantakouzenos and the Plovdiv metropolitan bishop was dispatched to him in Dimotika (see Kantakouzenos, *Historia*, III, 73, 444-445). Before setting out for the negotiations, he perhaps received written instructions and a mandate from the empress impressed precisely with this seal.

Of course, these are only hypotheses; what is certain is that during the regency of Anna of Savoy Palaiologina (1341-1347) correspondence impressed with her seal was received in Philippopolis.

217. Ἑλένη Παλαιολογίνα (1341-1391), wife of John V Palaiologos

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 21. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D.36-36 mm. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the inscription are out of the blank. That renders the reading difficult, specifically of the empress's name.

Ed. *Мушмов*, *Печати* № 18.

Parallels: Соколова, № 208. Numismatik Lanz München Auction 144. Auction date: 24th November 2008. Lot number: 815.

Obv. The Virgin seated frontally on a backless throne, wears chiton and maphorion, holding Christ on her lap. In upper field l. and r., sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || $\overline{\text{ΘV}}$.

Rev. Helen standing facing; wears crown with pendants, wide-sleeved divitision and loros; holds scepter with jeweled top in l. hand. Vertical inscription at l. and r.:

...Ε-...-ΕΒΕ-CTA-TH-AVT-CTA-... || TO-KPA-TOPI-CAPW-MAIW-NHΠA-ΛΑΙΟ-ΛΟΓΙ-NA

[+ Ἑλ]έ[νη] εὐσε[β]εστάτ(η) αὐγούστα [αὐ]τοκρατόρισα Ῥωμαέον ἡ Παλαιολογίνα

The author of the cited publication assumed that it refers to the wife of Manuel II Palaiologos (1391-1423). Sokolova's assumption seems more acceptable to me.

2. Palace offices

A. Civil

a) ἀκτουάριος

His office was connected with the hippodrome and mostly with horse-races. He was one of the invariable table-companions of the emperor after the races, and one of his duties was to confer awards on winners (see **Bury**, *System*, p.106; **Guiland**, *L'hippodrome*, p.3; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.327).

This office is not attested in the taktikon of Escorial presumably due to the low rank it had already acquired; while in the earlier taktikon of Uspenskij, 842-843 and Philotheos, 899 it has a separate entry, occupying the place before the chartoularioi of stratiotikon, tagmata, idikon, etc. It is connected with the title of the spatharioi (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 61.4; 153.17).

218. Ἀρκάδιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀκτουάρις (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22149. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-26 (?) 3 mm. W. 6.00 g. The bulla is almost completely obliterated with corrosion.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав* № 10.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons. Circular inscription along border of dots: ...ΟΗΘΕΙΤ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΑΡ..Δ | .Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | ..Π'SAK | ..ΑΡ'

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β]ολήθει τ[ῶ] σῶ δούλῳ] Ἀρ[κα]δ(ί)[ω] β'(πρωτο)σπα[θα]ρ(ίω) (καὶ) ἀκ[του]αρ(ίω)

b) ἀρτικλίνης

It derives from triclínios and is found in the forms ἀτρικλίνης and ἀρτοκλίνης. His duty was to show each emperor's guest his place at the banquet, according to his rank (title and position). He was therefore best informed of the hierarchical order in the Empire. He was usually a eunuch, but there are also a number of cases when this position was occupied by ordinary nobles (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 27-29; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S.146).

The author of the extant taktikon of 899, the protospatharios Philotheos, occupied this position (on him and his taktikon, see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 65 et sq.).

219-222. Εὐφίμιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀρτικλίνης τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη (X-XI c.)

219. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19888. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-25 (19) 2 mm. W. 6.87 g. Well-preserved, but incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 11.

220. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19690. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-26 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, corroded and broken into two parts.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 12.

221. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 259. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-24 (19) 1.5 mm. W. 5.27 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, broken into two parts.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 13.

222. Regional Historical Museum Shumen, no. 14216. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-26mm, W. 5.82 g.. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, covered with lead oxides.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 14; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 116.

The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion was offered at the auction Classical Num. Group, 3, (15.03.1995), no.1902. Perhaps it also originates from Preslav!

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡ'Θ'ΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΕΥΦΙ | ΜΙΩΡ'Α'C | ΠΑΘ'SΑΡΤΙ | ΚΛ'Τ8ΦΙΛΟ | ΧΡ'ΔΕCΠ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(ολή)θ(ει) τῶ σῶ δούλῳ Εὐφίμῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) ἀρτικλ(ίνη) τοῦ φιλοχρ(ίστου) δεσπ(ότου)

c) βαΐουλος

An office sometimes written as βάγυλος, attested in the sources from the mid-Byzantine period. It has the meaning of an educator, a tutor of the successor to the throne responsible not only for his education but also for his overall upbringing and forming of his personality. In this sense, he was a courtier who could influence certain intercessions.

Lit. **Laurent**, V. Ὁ μέγας βαΐουλος. A l'occasion du parakimomene Basile Lecapene.- *ΕΕΒΣ*, 23, 1953, 183 ff; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S. 148.

223. Συνεσιος κουβικουλάριος καὶ βαΐουλος (VIII-IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 36. Find-spot: uncertain. D 25-30 (22) 4 mm. W. 17. 56 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation with damaged surface and a missing fragment.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΕΟ | ΤΟΚΕΒΟ | ΗΘΙCVN | ΕCΙΩ +

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

...Β | ΙΚ...ΑΡ | ΙΩ.ΒΑΙ | ΟΝΛΟC

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθι Συνεσίω [κου]βικ[ουλ]αρίω [(καὶ)] βαΐουλος

The dating of the seal, according to the paleography of the letters and the combination of a title and position, is to the VIIIth-IXth centuries. Further investigations are needed regarding the person of this titular, who was an effective tutor of some Byzantine prince.

d) ἐπιγέρνης

Cup-bearer of the emperor ὁ ἐπιγέρνης τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη or the empress

ὁ ἐπιγέρνης τῆς αὐγούστης.

An office which came into existence relatively late. It is first mentioned in the years of Leo VI's reign (886-912). Of the extant taktika, it is mentioned only in Philotheos' of 899 (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, Ph. 135.5-6).

His duties were to provide special kind of wine (οἶνον δεσποτικὸν) to the imperial table and pour it into the emperor's cup for him to drink. The wine intended for the other table-companions was provided and poured by the attendants at the table – the trapezitoi (on them, see nos. 273-279). It seems that this office was personal and involved no subordinates (see **Bury**, *System*, p. 128; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 242-250; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 306).

224. Ἰωάννης σεβαστοφόρος καὶ ἐπιγέρνης τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη (XI c.)

RHM-Targoviste, no. 1406. Found in the course of excavations to the south of the wall of the basilica near the village of Draganovets, Targovishte region, in 1970. D. 29-29 (24) 3 mm. The imprint was made slightly off center, as a result, the first letters of the reverse remained out of the blank. Bulla in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. **Тотев, Т.** Византийски оловен печат от с. Драгановец, Търговишко.- *МПК*, 2, 1972, 6-8.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines

+ ΚΕ| ΡΟΗΘΕΙ | ΙΩΑΝΝΗ | ΣΕΦΑΣΤΟ | ΦΟΡΩ | -✠-

Rev. Inscription of five lines

ΚΠΠΓ | . ΕΡΝΗΤΘ | .ΙΛΟΧΡΙΣ | .ΟΝΔΕΣ | ΠΟΤΟΝ | -✠-

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει Ἰωάννη σεφαστοφόρῳ κ(αὶ) (ἐ)πιγ[κ]έρνη τοῦ

[φ]ιλοχρίστ[τ]ου δεσπότη

Its original publisher dates it to the XIIth-XIIIth c., which is unrealistic on the basis of the commentary of the data from its text.

The owner of the seal held the title Sebastophoros, which initially appeared as a title of a fairly high rank between 963 and 975 only to grow into an ordinary title of not a very high rank in the XIth c.

Hence, the seal of John sebastophoros and epikernios of the God-loving despotes should not be dated beyond the XIth c.

The owner of the seal is unknown from the narrative sources. His name is not included in the prosopographical list of the titulars of this office (see **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 259-263).

A question of different matter, which perhaps will remain unanswered, is: to whom living or sojourning by the basilica located near the present-day village of Draganovetz did John write?

Was it in connection with his official duties or was it to some of his relatives in service there, or perhaps to the local prelate? It may well be that the local prelate had asked this high-ranking dignitary for a certain intercession and received a reply sealed with this bulla. In any case, the discovery of the bulla in the proximity of the basilica and thus the receipt of correspondence there adds a new element to the life of this settlement.

е) κοιτῶνος

An office held by eunuchs and connected with the emperor's chamber. Some of them were responsible for the emperor's wardrobe, others were charged with safeguarding and preservation of the private emperor's treasure. In the XIth c., it developed from an office into an ordinary title of not a very high rank. Since it was connected with the person of the emperor, who is sacred, the position was very often accompanied by the epithet θεοφυλάκτος (see **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 525; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 301, 305). The added position φύλαξ common with some of the Kitonites has perhaps the same etymology.

225. Ἀνθης πριμικήριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ θεοφυλάκτου κοιτῶνος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 16983. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-25 (22) 2 mm.

W. 7.39 g. Well-preserved, but incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов, Преслав**, № 16.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription of two columns: A-Π-I-O || Θ-Ε-O.-P.-.

Rev. Inscription of six lines.

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩC . Δ'ΑΝ | ΘΗΠΡΙΜΙΚΗ | Ρ'ΣΕΠΙΤ'ΘΕ | ΦΝΛ'ΚΟΙ | ΤΩΝ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σ[ω] δ(ούλῳ) Ἀνθῇ πριμικηρ(ίῳ) (καὶ) ἐπὶ (τοῦ)

θ(ε)ωφυλ(άκτου) κοιτῶν(ος)

226. Βάρδας πριμικήριος καὶ κοιτωνίτης (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest, formerly in the collection of the college in Silistra. Find-spot: the town. D. 22-22 (20?) 2 mm. Well-centered imprint, but some letters remained out of the blank.

Ed. **Banescu**, *Silistrie*, 323-324, no IV.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Prokopios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Π-P-O || Κ-O-Π'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΡΑΡΔΟ | ΠΡΙΜΙΚ' | ΣΚΟΙΤΩ | ΝΙΤΗ

Βάρδο(ς) ? πριμικ(ήριος) (καὶ) κοιτωνίτη(ς)

The XIth-XIIth-century dating proposed by the publisher should be limited to the period Xth-XIth c.

The reading of the homonym is problematic. There are several possibilities:

a) Βάρδο(ς), which is rather unusual;

b) misspelled Βάρδας;

c) ΡΑΡΔΟ= Πάρδο(ς).

Unfortunately, I did not have the chance to work with the original and the photograph is of poor quality.

227. Εὐστάθιος β' κοιτῶνος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22915. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-19 (13) 2.5 mm. W. 5.15 g. Well-centered imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 19
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Eustathios holding the martyr's cross (r. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-.-V || C-T-A-.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΕVCT. | Θ'Ρ'ΚΟΙ | ΤΟΝ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Εὐστ[α]θ(ίῳ) β'κοιτον(ος)

228. Ἰωάννης πριμίκριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ θεοφυλάκτου κοιτῶνος (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Nikolai Nikolov from Razgrad). Offered for purchase at the RHM-Shumen. The seller claimed that the bulla was found on the land of the village of Omarchevo, Shumen region. D. 26-27.5 (23) 2.5 mm. Off-centered; some letters remained out of the blank.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

| + ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΠΩ | ΠΡΙΜΙΚ | ΡΙΩ | -✕-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

-✕- | .ΕΠΙΤ' | .ΕΟΦVΛ | ..Τ8ΚΟΙ | .ΩΝΟC | - ? -
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει Ἰω(άννη) πριμικ(ι)ρίῳ [(καὶ)] ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) [θ]εοφυλ[άκ]του
κοι[τ]ῶνος

229-230. Ἰωάννης Δαβατηνὸς β'πριμικήριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος (X-XI c.)

229. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21557a. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-25 (22.5) 2.8 mm. W. 7.39 g. High-quality imprint with fragments broken.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 17; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 153.

230. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 23579. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 11-24 (22.5) 2 mm. W. 6.87 g. Good imprint, only half preserved.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 18; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 154.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8ΛΩ | ΙΩΑΝΗ | -✕-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ RACI | ΔΙΚ'ΠΡΙΜΙΚ' | ΣΕΠΙΤ8ΚΟΙ | Τ'ΤΩΔΑΡΑ | ΤΗΝΩ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰωάνη βασιλικῷ πριμικ(η)ρίῳ (καὶ) ἐπὶ τοῦ
κοιτ(ῶ)νος τῷ Δαβατηνῷ

231-232. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ

κοιτῶνος καὶ φύλαξ (mid-XI c.)

He is attested by two groups of seals:

1. πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος καὶ φύλαξ

231. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Found in the course of excavations in Silistra in 1995. D. 17-33 mm.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in Zacos Collection (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 805). On its basis, we make the restoration of the missing letters on our specimen.

Obv. The Virgin orans, standing with a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: \overline{MP} || ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΩΝΑ' | ..ΑΘΑΡ' | ...Τ8ΚV |CΣΦV | ΛΑΚΗ
[Κ]ων(σταντίνῳ) (πρωτο)[σπ]αθαρ(ίῳ) [ἐπὶ] τοῦ κ(ο)υ[τῶνο]ς (καὶ) φύλακη

2. πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος καὶ φύλαξ.

232. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24591. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23.5-24 (21) 3 mm. W. 10.19 g. The obverse is effaced, the inscription on the reverse is completely preserved.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 15.
No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin orans, standing with a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: MP || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | $\overline{ΚΩΝ ΠΡΠ}$ | ΠΡΕΠ'CHΤ' | ΕΠΙΤ8ΚΟΙ | ΤΟΝ'ΣΦV | ΛΑΚ'
+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) Κων(σταντίνῳ) π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ) πρεπ(ο)σήτ(ῳ) ἐπὶ τοῦ
κοιτον(ος) (καὶ) φύλακ(ι)

The coincidence of names, iconography and chronological continuity with some of the positions and titles inscribed on the two groups of seals gives us grounds to assume that they apply to one and the same person.

He maintained quite active correspondence with various addressees in northeastern Bulgaria: Preslav and Dristra. It definitely applies to a eunuch. His titles πατρίκιος and πρωτοσπαθάριος should be considered as intended for eunuchs. The mid-XIth-century dating of the bullae and the active receipt here of correspondence during a longer period of time makes the following assumption more certain: the owner of the two groups of seals is the eunuch and praeipositos Constantine, dispatched at the head of an army against the Pechenegs in this part of the country.

233. N., πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος (mid-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-18 mm. Complete, but poorly-preserved specimen, which makes the reading of the homonym difficult.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ on l. arm.

Rev. Inscription of six lines :

+ΘΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘΕΙ |ΡΑΓ.. | | ΩΑ'CΠΑΘΑΡ | ΣΕΠΙΤ'ΚΟΙ | ΤΟΝΟC
+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει.....ω (πρωτο)σπαθαρι(ώ) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) κοιτονοC

η) κουβικουλάριος

A eunuch office connected with the guarding of the emperor's cubiculum. It developed into a title of not a very high rank as early as the VIIth –VIIIth centuries. It disappeared from the sources in the first half of the XIth c.

Lit. **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 301; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S. 165).

241. Ἰωάννης β' κουβικουλάριος (first half, IX c.)

Private collection (a collector from Haskovo). I obtained a cast through D. Aladjov. Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Levka. D. 22-24 mm. Incomplete, but well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I. 5); in the quarters: ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΙΩΑ | NNHB'K | .VBIK | .VΛ.

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰωάννῃ β' κ[ο]υβικ[ο]υλ[ά]ρι[ω]

The dating of the seal is generally in the first half of the IXth c. The receipt of correspondence in the fortress near the present-day village of Levka is of interest to us. At that juncture, it was probably a border fortress of the Empire against the Bulgarian invasion.

242. Σισίνιος β' κουβικουλάριος (IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14706/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad, who had purchased it from Burgas (according to its finder, it was discovered in the Burgas region, by implication Develt; it refers mostly to IXth-Xth-century seals). D. 15-30 (29) 2 mm. W. 4.80 g. Half of what was once a well-centered imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Девелт* [Addenda], no. 19; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 118.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of cruciform invocative monogram ; in the quarters : ΤΩ - .. || Δ8 - ..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..CI | ..ΩΒ' | ..BIK8 | ..PI.

Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ [σῷ] δού[λῳ] Σι[σ]ιν[ί]ω β'[κ]ουβικου[λ]αρί[ω]

g) μινσουράτωρ

A palace official whose functions supplemented those of the παπίας. His duties in particular could be defined as spreading fragrance and burning incense before the emperor entered the throne-room. He was usually a eunuch and member of the emperor's cubiculum.

In addition to the palace μινσουράτωρ, a military one is also known, whose duties were connected with the emperor's campaign tent during military campaigns or other marches.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, p. 129; *De Cer.*, II [com.], 65-66; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 306, n.100

243. Ν., ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγγλαβίου καὶ μινσουράτωρ (VIII-IX c.)

Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-19 (?) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint; specimen in a poor state of preservation. Two whole lines from the reverse are missing, thus rendering the reading difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known. I am ignorant of any other seal of μινσουράτωρ.

Obv. Eagle with open wings. Traces of circular inscriptions: + Κ.....Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | | Τ'. ΑΓΛΑΡ.. | ...MINC.. | ΡΑΤΟΡΟC

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) [Ν., ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) [μ]αγγλαβί(ῳ) [καὶ] μινσ[ο]υράτωρC

The poor state of preservation and the incomplete imprint do not allow any commentary on the data of the seal. However, his last two positions ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγγλαβίου καὶ μινσουράτωρ are more certain. A question poses itself: is it a palace official or a military one who accompanied the emperor during military campaigns and other marches and served in his tent? The fact that the owner of the seal belonged to the Corps of the manglavitai rather points to the second possibility. The bulla could be dated to an earlier period of VIIIth-IXth c.

h) νιψιστάριος

A eunuch office at the Palace, rather low in rank compared to the rest, but the holders could influence the emperor's decisions being very close to him. The duties of the nipsistarios were to present a gold wash basin to the emperor and to pour water on his hands before he left the Palace. The nipsistarios wore a white linen tunic as a distinguishing uniform, on which the symbol of his duties, the fiala or the basin, was embroidered in purple.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, p. 122; **Laurent**, *Vatican*, p. 39; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 266-268). In the later taktika after Philotheos' (899), this office is not presented (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 124; 125.22-24; 301, n. 88).

244. Νικήτας πριμικήριος καὶ νιψιστάριος τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19347. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22.5-23 (21 ?) 3 mm. W. 7.15 g. Complete, but poorly-preserved imprint. Some parts of the depiction and text are obliterated.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 20.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands open in front of her chest. Sigla: \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$. Circular inscription along the circumference: + ΘΚΕΡ'Θ'ΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- :- | ΝΙΚΗΤ' | ΠΡΙΜΙΚ'S | ΝΙΨΙCΤ' | Τ8ΦΙΛΟ | ΧΡΙCΤ'Δ' | - o -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Νικήτ(α) πριμικ(ιρίῳ) (καὶ) νιψιστ(αρίῳ) τοῦ φιλοχρίστ(ου) δεσπότηC

i) ὀστιάριος

An office first attested in the sources in 787 in connection with the palace ceremony. Later it developed into a title intended for eunuchs. In the XIth c., it was the initial stage of the career of many (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.300). Its last mention is in Calabria in 1086 (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.300, n.88). Several seals of ostiarioi are known dated by their publishers to the XIIth and even the XIIIth centuries (see **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, 560-561), but actually stemming from the Xth and XIth centuries.

245-246. Ἀναστάσιος β' ὀστιάριος (X c.)

245. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22143. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 13-21 (19) 2 mm. W. 2.97 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 21.

246. RHM-Schumen, no. 14965/3. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-24 mm. W. 5.92 g. Once a good imprint, now cracked with a fragment broken.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 119

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58. 106. 2403). Due to its good state of preservation, it allows for an earlier dating than the one proposed in my previous publication.

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons. In the quarters of the preserved right half, sigla: $\overline{\text{IC}}$ - .. || NI - .. (Ι(σοῦ)ς [Χ(ριστὸ)ς] νι[κᾶ]). Circular inscription along the circumference: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a. . . NAC | . . CHΩ | . . CTH | . . HΩ

b. +.NAC | TACHΩ | R'OCT . | APHΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ [Α]ναστασίῳ β' ὀστιάριῳ

247. Βασίλειος β' ὀστιάριος (last quarter of IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Varna, no inventory no. Entered the collection in 1976. No find-spot reported. D. 18-20 (18) 3.5 mm. Good imprint and good state of preservation, except for the circular inscription which remained out of the blank.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the Hermitage (M-285) (see **Соколова**, *Херсонес*, схема III.7).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. No sigla. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗ..ΤΩCΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+RACIA | ΕΙΩR'OCT | ΙΑΡΙΩ | +

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοή[θη] τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Βασιλείῳ β' ὀστιάριῳ

The author cited above dates this type of representations of the Virgin and the particular bulla to the 80s of the IXth c.; thus the owner of the present seal should be a titular of the effective office.

It is impossible to trace the addressee of the correspondence due to the lack of information on the find-spot of the bulla. Most probably it applies to a citizen of some of the Black sea centers.

248. Θεόδωρος β' ὀστιάριος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24462. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-25 (16) 2 mm.

W. 3.30 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, broken into two parts.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 22.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Traces of a vertical inscription in two columns:.. Ε- Ο || ...

The circular inscription is completely obliterated.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΕΟ | ΔΟΡΩR' | ΟCΤΙΑ | PHΩ

Θεοδόρῳ β' ὀστιάριῳ

A bulla with a similar iconographic subject and text was included in G. Schlumberger's Collection (*Sig.*, p. 405, no 1). According to the author's tentative assumption, a bust of St. George represented as a warrior is visible on the obverse. The reverse has the following inscription: +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΘΕΟΔΟΡ | ΟCΤΙΑ | Ρ

It is possible that the two groups of seals belonged to one person, our seal being later. A commonplace coincidence is also possible. The name and title were very common at that time.

249. Ἰωάννης β' ὀστιάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 920. Find-spot: the town. D. 21-23 (?) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies; as a result, the text is incomplete. In addition to the proposed reading of the title, [RΕ]CΤH[A]PHΩ is also possible.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, III, № 7.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: .. || $\overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.K.R'Θ' | . ΩANNH | ..CTH. | PHΩ

[+] Κ(ύρι)[ε] β(οή)θ(ει) [Ι]ωάννη [β' ὀ]στη[α]ρήῳ

250. Λέων ὀστιάριος (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15198. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 194. Find-spot: Plovdiv region. D. 14-16 (14) 4 mm. W. 5.00 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 120

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her chest. Sigla: \overline{M} || $\overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΚΕ . . | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΟCΤHA | ΠΙΩ

Θ(εοτό)κε [β(οή)θ(ει)] Λέοντι ὀστηαρίῳ

251. Χριστοφόρος β' ὀστιάριος..... (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21566. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-25 (22?) 3 mm. W. 5.69 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, broken into two parts, fragments missing.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 23.
No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription along the circumference: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩCΩ....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

X..CTO | .OP.COC | .IA.IOCK |ΕΠΗ |
X[ρι]στο[φ]όρ[ο]ς ὀσ[τ]ιά[ρ]ιος καὶ

252. N., β' ὀστιάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15255. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23-25.5 (22) 4 mm. W. 8.86 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint. The channel swelling is not pressed. The letters are indistinct and the unprinted fields are scratched with a blade on purpose. It seems that some engraving was meant. The reading of the first two lines which should record the name of the owner is problematic.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 650.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base up to the second arm. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. KERC | . . IN'R'OC | . . . PHOSE | .TONVK |
+Κ(ύριε βοήθ[ει] τῷ σῷ δούλῳ]β' ὀσ[τ]ια[ρ]ήο καὶ ἐ[π]ὶ τὸν υκ[ε]ιακῶν]

j) παπίας

An office first attested in the reign of Leo IV (775-780). His duties were connected with the security of the Palace and the emperor. He opened and closed not only the palace gates, but also those leading to the emperor's private chambers. He was usually a eunuch from the rank of the protospatharioi (see **Bury**, *System*, 126-128; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 251-256; **Laurent**, *Orghidan*, p. 34; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 306-307). In the XIth c., he was also in charge of the prisons formerly under the control of the domestikos of the numeroi and the fortress walls (see **Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, p. 143).

253-255. Γεώργιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας παπίας (X-XI c.)

253. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17269. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 28.5-29 (25) 3 mm. W. 12.15 g. Unsuccessful imprint, only the letters from the center of the dies printed.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 24.

254. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19207. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-29 (25) 3.1 mm. W. 12.60 g. Incomplete imprint, as above.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 25.

255. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 29-29 (25) 3 mm. The same or even worse condition than the above specimens.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 26.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

— ∴ — | + ΘΕΟ | TOKERO | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔΟΝ | ΛΩ | — ∴ —

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

— ∴ — | + ΓΕΩΡ | ΡΓΗΩΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘΑΡ'C | ΜΕΓΑΛΩ | ΠΑΠΗΑ | — ∴ —
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Γεωργίῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρίῳ (καὶ)
μέγῳ παπίᾳ

256. Παῦλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας παπίας (X-XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 43. Find-spot: the town. D. 28-30 (25) 2.5 mm. Once a good imprint, now damaged. Cracked surface; fragments broken. However, the restoration of the missing letters is not a problem.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 17.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

— ∴ — | . KERO | . . ΕΙΤΩ | .ΩΔΟΝ | ΛΩ* | — ∴ —

Rev. Inscription of four lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

— ∴ — | + ΠΑΥ. | . . Α' CΠΑ. | .ΜΕΓΑ. | ΠΑΠ. | — ∴ —
[+] Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ[ει] τῷ [σ]ῷ δούλῳ Παύλῳ β' (πρωτο)σπα[θ]αρίῳ (καὶ)]
μεγάλῳ παπί[α]

The similarity between the seals of these two dignitaries is obvious not only due to the fact that they were titulars of the same department, but also due to the similar technological shaping of the dies. It is hard to determine the reasons for that, but it is quite possible that they are chronologically connected.

k) παρακοιμώμενος

Head of the emperor's chambers παρακοιμώμενος τοῦ κοιτῶνος.

It was earliest attested in the years of Emperor Maurikios (582-602). Until the IXth c., several parakoimomenoi subordinate to the praepositos are known. After the IXth c., however, the office referred to only one person.

He was usually a eunuch. His duties were connected with the safety of the emperor. He spent the night with him in the same chamber. Due to the character of his duties, he was very close to the emperor (actually his parakoimomenos - παρακοιμώμενος τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη) and had the opportunity to influence the governing of the Empire, as is the case of Basil Lakapenos presented below (on the office, see **Bury**, *System*, p. 125; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 202-215; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.305, n.91-93).

257-261. Βασίλειος ἐνδοξοτάτος πρόεδρος τῆς συγκλήτου καὶ παρακοιμώμενος τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη (963-976)

257. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17565. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-24 (?) 2.5 mm. W. 6.87 g. Unsuccessful imprint. Heavily damaged specimen, open in center.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 80.

258. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 250. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 17-20 (?) 1.6 mm. W. 6.87 g. Unsuccessful imprint. Half preserved. Not a single letter printed on the obverse.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 81.

259. RHM-Silistra, no. 15. Find-spot: the town. D. 20-22.5 (20 ?) 3 mm. Unsuccessful imprint. The boulloterion was perhaps loosened.
Unpublished.

260. Private collection. Find-spot: Preslav or Silistra. D. 23-25 mm. Unsuccessful imprint. The boulloterion was perhaps loosened.
Unpublished.

261. Private collection (a collector from Pernik). Presumably the same find-spot as the above. D. 25-28 (?) 3 mm. Large flat blank. Perhaps once a good imprint, now damaged; perhaps holed for the purpose of suspension from a document (?).
Unpublished.
The five specimens were struck in the same boulloterion. An interesting fact is that none of them was successfully printed.
Parallels: Zacos, Seals, II, no 795; Oikonomides, Dated, no. 69.

Obv. Circular inscription, beginning at 12 o'clock, between two borders of dots:

.... ΗΘ, continuing in the vertical inscription within the circle:
.ΝΑ. | .ΟΤΑΤΩ | .ΡΟΕΔΡΩ | ΤΗCCVΓ | ΑΗΤ8

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

+ ΚΑΙΠ. | ΡΑΚΟ... | ΜΕΝ'Τ... | ΛΟΧΥΔ.. | ΠΟΤΟ.
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βο]ήθ[ει Βασιλείω] [ἐ]νδο[ξ]οτάτῳ [π]ροέδρῳ τῆς συγκλήτου καὶ
π[α]ρακοιμώμεν(ω) τ[οῦ φι]λοχ[ρίστου] δ[εσ]πότη[ς]

In my publication cited above, other seals of this dignitary are also presented. In view of the discovery of the lead seals of this dignitary in the Bulgarian lands I will offer here short information on his person.

The eunuch Basil was an illegitimate son of Emperor Romanos I Lakapenos (921-931) by his Bulgarian concubine (?). He was born between 910 and 920. In 941 he was a protovestiaros. In the conflict of Romanos I's sons Stephanos and Constantine against the lawful ruler Constantine VII he did not side with his brothers, but with Constantine VII. After the establishment of the sole rulership of the latter in 948, he was introduced into the rank of the patrikioi and appointed parakoimomenos. He fell into disgrace under Romanos II (959-963) and was restored on his post under Nikephoros II (963-969). According to Leo the Deacon, in order to express his gratitude to the parakoimomenos and eunuch Basil Lakapenos Emperor Nikephoros Phokas established the position πρόεδρος τῆς συγκλήτου especially for him, in which capacity he is represented on his seals.

Basil Lakapenos retained his ground under the next Emperor John I Tzimiskes (969-976), and in his capacity as parakoimomenos took part in the expedition for conquering

eastern Bulgaria. Both John Skylitzes and Leo the Deacon report that the proedros and parakoimomenos Basil followed the emperor with the army reserves, supply train and battering-rams (**Diaconus**, 132.22; **Leo the Deacon**, p. 179; *Skylitzes*, 295-296).

Perhaps the discovery of his bullae in Preslav and Dristra is in connection with this campaign and Basil's stay in eastern Bulgaria (Preslav and Dristra). There may have been a number of reasons for which this high-ranking dignitary sent his correspondence to individuals accompanying the emperor or to the emperor himself during their stay in Preslav or Dristra.

261Α. Γεώργιος Οἰναιώτης σεβαστός καὶ παρακοιμώμενος (end of the XII c.).

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: town of Parvomai. D. 13-31 (over 30) 3.1 mm. W. 6.3 g. Fragment smaller than a half.

Ed. Йорданов, Куперитес, № 2.

Parallels: Another whole unpublished specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the collection of Fogg A. M., no. 766. We restore the text of our specimen on its basis.

Obv. Part of a standing figure of St. George. Only the umbo of his shield is actually visible. Remains from the inscription:

.....||Ο-Κ8-ΠΕ-ΡΙΟ-ΤΗ-s : [ἽΟ ἄγ(ιος) Γεώργιος] ὁ Κουπεριώτης.

Rev. Remains of an inscription of seven lines:

.|ΟΜ |COI |OINA| ΚΑΙ| ΜWM|
TVC| ΠΟ . .
+|ΟΜWNVMON|COICΕΡΑϞ|ON|OINAIWTHN|ΚΑΙΠΑΡΑΚΟΙ| ΜWMΕΝΟΝΜΑΡ
| TVCΜΕCΚΕ| ΠΟΙC Fogg A. M., no. 766,
[+ἽΟμ[ώνυμων] σοι [σεβαστὸν] Οἰνα[ιώτην] καὶ [παρακοι]μωμ[ενον],
Μάρ]τυς, [σκέ]πο[ις]

George Oinaïotes, eunuch, who played an important role in court life and military operations under Alexios III (1195-1203). He took part, playing a decisive role besides, in the military campaign against Dobromir Chrysos in 1198 (**Choniates**, 503-505; **Guiland**, *Recherches*, I, p. 175; on the course and participants of these events, see **Златарски**, *История*, II, 120-130).

The discovery of the bulla in the fortress near the present-day town of Parvomai, the provenance of other late XIIth-century Byzantine bullae (see nos. 118; 256A; 1469; 1799; 1852; 2052; 2192; 3069), corroborates the participation of George Oinaïotes in these events. For their realization he entered into contact with the local garrisons one of which must have been located in the region of the present-day Parvomai and another in the fortress near the village of Dobri Dol, Plovdiv region (see **Jordanov**, Dobri Dol, 443-469).

1) πραιπόσιτος

One of the most important eunuch offices at the Palace. His duties were connected with the palace ceremonies: religious rituals, processions and ceremonies for receptions of embassies. The praipositos was one of the most trusted men of the emperor. He took active part in the appointment of higher dignitaries. He was considered head of the whole staff of eunuchs in the Palace who served the emperor and formed his immediate retinue

– cubiculum, while he himself appeared to be prepositus sacri cubiculi (see **Bury**, *System*, 123-124; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 333-380).

This effective office also developed similar to others. In the IXth-Xth c., it had two titulars charged with administrative, financial and ceremonial duties, the one being a protopraipositos. It gradually turned into a title, initially intended only for eunuchs. It disappeared from the documents towards the end of the XIth c. (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.300, n.77-78; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S. 172)

Three of the seals from Bulgaria bear this title or office:

1. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρικίος, πραιπόσιτος ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος καὶ φύλαξ (see nos. 231-232), dated to the mid-XIth c. It is hard to determine whether it was an effective title or office at that period, but the fact that Constantine held the title of patrikios and was πραιπόσιτος ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος καὶ φύλαξ suggests the conclusion that it was perhaps an effective office. It is not unlikely however that it applies to several honorific titles.

2. Λέων πραιπόσιτος (see no. 262), dated to the second half of the XIth c. In this case indeed, it could only be a title.

3. Νέστωρ πατρικίος καὶ πραιπόσιτος (see no. 263), dated after the mid-XIth c. and presumably referring to an effective office.

262. Λέων πραιπόσιτος (second half, XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14222. Find-spot: Silistra, according to its former owner (a middleman). D. 13-21(12) 2.5 mm. W. 3.45 g. The imprint was made on a piece of a larger bulla seemingly having belonged to the same individual. The purpose of this imprint is hard to determine. It has no channel for suspension, hence it was not affixed to correspondence. There are two possibilities:

- a) the larger bulla was struck several times in the boulloterion; only a fragment of it was preserved containing parts of two of the imprints;
- b) it is a sample imprint on a chance piece of an old bulla. In this case, the owner of the seal must have been located in Silistra.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 121.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: .. || Θ̅V̅.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- + - | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΠΡΑΙΠΟ | CITO

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντι πραιποσίτω

The dating of the seal, according to its iconography, style and text, is generally to the second half of the XIth c. with preference to its last quarter.

In a pittakion of Anna Dalassene in favour of the monastery on Patmos dated 15th July 1087, the names of several praipositoi are mentioned, among which that of Λέοντιος πραιποσίτου καὶ χαρτουλαρίου τοῦ μετοχίου Λακαπίου (see **Patmos**, I, no 47.23).

263. Νέστωρ πατρικίος καὶ πραιπόσιτος (second half, XI c.)

Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot as reported by the former owner: Veliko Turnovo. We can only guess at the truth of this information. D. 17-20 mm. W. 3.804 g. Good imprint and a well-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Нестор*, с. 308; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 520.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield, both resting on the ground. Vertical inscription: . . Γ-I || Δ-I-MI-T'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΝΕΣΤΟΡΙ | ΠΡΗΚΑΙ | ΠΡΑΙΠΟ | CITO

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Νέστορι π(ατ)ρι(κίω) καὶ πραιποσίτω

The owner of the seal affixed on correspondence to an unknown addressee in northern Bulgaria is Νέστωρ πατρικίος καὶ πραιπόσιτος.

The presented seal is generally dated to the second half of the XIth c. and it could be assumed that praipositos is another honorific title; however, having in mind the person of the owner of the seal, Nestor, it is more likely that it refers to an effective office.

Who was this Nestor?

It is an interesting ascertainment that I do not know of another seal bearing such a homonym, besides that of Νέστωρ ἄνθρωπος ἄνακτος τοῦ Δούκα.

For more information on the person of Nestor, see **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.521-522

m) πρωτοβεστιάριος / βεστιάριος

A eunuch office connected with the private emperor's wardrobe. He was a man from the emperor's retinue, who accompanied him everywhere, even during military campaigns (see **Куликовский**, *Византийски лагерь*, с. 70; **Dennis**, *Treatises*, 250.110, 112,118; 270.20; 334-335; where the tent of the protovestiarios was also provided a space). He was also responsible for certain types of properties of members of the imperial family (see **Ebersolt**, *Vestiarium*, 81-89).

In the IXth-Xth-century rank lists, it occupies the second place allotted for eunuchs, after that of the parakoimomenos (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 299-300). In the Escorial taktikon, this office is not presented, presumably due to having been replaced by the vestarches. In the XIth c., only the office of protovestiarios of increased importance was attested. In addition to the economic prerogatives which he retained, he also gained jurisdiction over the whole palace staff with the exception of the guards. He was at the head of the palace ceremonial instead of the praipositos and became head of the emperor's civil retinue. Not only eunuchs were titulars now (see **Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, p.129).

264-265. Θεόφανης πατρικίος καὶ πρωτοβεστιάριος τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη (927-934).

264. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21576. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-27 (23-17) 2.1 mm, W. 8.50 g. Incomplete imprint, indistinct letters, some letters did not print at all. Cracked along channel.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 27.

265. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18076. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 15-25 (23-17) 2.5 mm, W. 8.50 g. Half specimen. Unsuccessful imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 28.

The both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Between two concentric circels of dots, inscription starting at the top:

+ CTAΥPOCCKEΠHΦ..... Ω

In the center, cruciform monogram of Θεοφάνει. In the quarters, rosaces made of dots.

Rev. Between two concentric circels of dots, inscription starting at the top:

+ KVPI..... ΕΙΤ...ΠΙCΤΩΔ8Λ'

In the center inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕΟΦ' ΠΑΤΡΙΚ' Α'Ρ'ΤΟΝΦ. | ΛΟΧΥΔ. | CΠΟΤ8

+ Σταυρὸς σκέπη, φ[ῶς δόξα τ]ῷ Θεοφάνει

+ Κύρι[ε βοήθ]ει τ[ῷ σῶ] πιστῷ δούλ(ω) Θεοφ(άνει) πατρικ(ίω) (καὶ)

(πρωτο)β(εστιαρίω) τοῦ φ[ι]λοχ(ρίστο)υ δ[ε]σπότου

In my cited publication I accepted the identification between the owner of the seal and protovestiaris Theophanes known from narrative sources. He was godfather at the wedding of the Bulgarian ruler Peter I and princess Maria in 927. His two lead seals found in Preslav were affixed to his correspondence to a high-ranking Bulgarian dignitary. Theophanes appeared a side in the contract signed with Byzantium, and his further contacts with the Bulgarian capital were essential.

I can supplement my publication with the following:

a) the surviving letters of Niketas magistros addressed to Theophanes (*Nicetas Magistros, Lettres*, nos. 7, 15, p. 136);

b) the title of a special study dedicated to this dignitary (see *Dobschutz, E von*, *Der Kammerherr Theophanes.-BZ*, 10, 1901, 166-168).

266. Γεώργιος σεβαστοφόρος καὶ πρωτοβεστιάριος (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 315. Found in the course of excavations in Pliska, in the Palace Center, square 21, in the dug-out soil of a dwelling on 29th July 1977. D. 31-32 (28) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. The bulla itself is in a poor condition, especially after its 'conservation'. Luckily, we have a photograph before the 'conservation'.

Ed. *Йорданов*, *Плиска*, № 11.

Parallels: *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 710, struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Inscription of two columns: ☉-ΓΕ-.. || Γ-HO-C

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΚΕ.. | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΓΕΩΡΓΙΩ | CΕRACTO | ΦΟΡΩ.. | ΡΕCΤ.. | - Ρ.. -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δού(λ)ω] Γεωργίω σεβαστοφόρῳ [(καὶ) (πρωτο)]

βεστ[ια]ρ[ίω]

To supplement the cited publications, I would add the associations suggested by the presence of this seal in the former Palace center in Pliska. The office of protovestiaris, as already noted, was directly connected with the Palace. Did the official duties of this George not require correspondence to Pliska where the former Palace of the Bulgarian rulers was somehow connected with the Byzantine Palace?

267. Λέων δισύπατος καὶ βεστιάριος (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 13508. Find-spot: Pomorie. D. 14-16 (over 14) 4 mm. W. 6.28 g. Incomplete imprint since the blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies.

Ed. *Йорданов*, *Анхиало*, № 7; *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 122.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Fogg A M Collection no. 1966. On its basis, we do the restoration of the missing letters from our specimen.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Traces of an inscription in two columns: || P-Γ'

Rev. Inscription of five:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΔVCVΠ'Τ | |

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντι δυσυπ(ά)τ[ω (κα) βεστιαρίω]

267A. Λέων Μαγνής βεστιάριος (X-XI c.)

Private collection (S. Pantelev from Varna). Unknown origin. Dimensions: 15-20 (12) 2.5 mm. W. 3.40 g. Slight and incomplete imprint. Bulla in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 400.

No parallels known.

Obv. Poorly-preserved bust of a saint with curly hair?

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤ | ... TIA | Ρ'Τ'ΜΑΓ | ΝΙΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντ(ι) [βεσ]τιαρ(ίω) τ(ῷ) Μαγνίω

268-270. Μιχαήλ Μαναστρᾶς πρωτοβεστιάριος or πρωτοβέστης (late XI c.)

Private collection. I had the opportunity of a short-time examination on them, which suggests uncertainty in the reading of some letters, as to whether the patronym is Μαναστρᾶς or Μοναστρᾶς. Find-spot: uncertain. Approximately in the same good state of preservation. D. 17-18, 17-19 and 18.5-19 mm.

Ed. *Jordanov, Family Names*, nos. 415-417.

The three specimens are from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with no medallion. Sigla: \overline{M} || $\overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | Α'Ρ'ΤΩΜΑ | ΝΑΨΡΑ | C

Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Μιχαήλ (πρωτο)β(εστιαρίω) τῷ Μαναστρᾶς

The abbreviation Α'Ρ' for (πρωτο)β(εστιαρίω) or (πρωτο)β(έστη) presents a certain problem in the reading of the text. I have accepted the former possibility, having in mind the parallel with the seal of Theophanes protovestiaris (see here nos. 264-265), but the latter possibility should not be ruled out either. Still, the ligature writing of C+T=Ψ is typical for the end of the XIth c. and the beginning of the XIIth c., which is an argument for a later dating of the seal, when the title protovestiaris was out of use.

An individual bearing the same names but no titles and positions is known from among the seals found in Bulgaria (see **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, nos.418-419). It is not unlikely that the owner of the two groups of seals is one and the same person.

271. Ἰωάννης Κομνηνὸς πρωτοσεβαστός καὶ πρωτοβεστίαριος (1148-1176)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 40-42 (30) mm. Whole bulla, but non-printed fields, which renders the reading impossible. Furthermore, it was at my disposal for quite a short period.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.342.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of seven lines:

ΣΦΡΑΓΙΣΚΟΙ | ΡΩΤΟΠΑΝ.. | ΑΣΘΝΙΕΡ.. | ΤΣΚΟΜΝΙΝΩ | ...ΥΣΠΡΩ.. |
ΡΕΣΤΙΑΡΙ | ΟΥ

Σφραγίς... [π]ρωτοπαν[σεβ]ασθυπερ[τάτ]ου Κομνινω[φυο]ῦς
πρω[το]βεστιαρίου

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ | ...ΤΟΝΤΟC | ΔΡΟΝΙΚ | ΠΟΚΡΑΤ | ...ΚΑΙ... ΙΘ | ΓΕΝΟΥ
Ἰωάννου [ἔλκον]τος [ἐξ Ἀνδρονίκου σεβα[στοκράτ]ορος] καὶ [θε]ίου
γένου

272. Μιχαήλ Ἀρνής ὕπατος καὶ βεστιαρίτης (mid of the XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no.15099. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 95. Find-spot: Melnitsa, dist. of Elkhovo. D. 25-26 (22) 3.5 mm. W.10.10 g. A good and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 60a; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 123.

Parallels: **Sandrovskaja**, **Seibt**, no.34. Struck in a different boulloterion.

Obv. Bust St. Michael holding scepter ornamented with three balls (r. hand) and globus (l. hand). Inscription: Μ-Ι || Χ-Α : Μιχα(ήλ)

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΥΠΑΤΩΝ | ΡΕΣΤΙΑΡ' | ΤΗΝΤΟΝ | ΑΡΝΗΝ | - ο -
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Μιχαήλ ὕπατων (καὶ) βεστιαρ(ί)την τὸν Ἀρνήν

η) τραπέζης

A eunuch office. He was in charge of the servants attending at the emperor's and empress's tables. In the taktikon of Philotheos (899), this position occupied the third place after those of the parakoimomenos and protovestiaros ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης τοῦ δεσπότη and respectively ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης τῆς αὐγούστης (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 133-135).

The difficulties with the identification of this position on seals stem from the fact that the subordinates of ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης are also ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης, but placed much lower in the rank hierarchy, thus naturally not represented in the rank lists. The question arises whether, similar to the other effective positions, this did not develop into an ordinary title.

On the seals dated mostly to the Xth c., the position ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς οἰκειακῆς τραπέζης is also found. This was a servant who attended at the emperor's private table in contrast to ὁ

ἐπὶ τῆς β'τραπέζης who attended at the imperial formal table (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, p. 98).
Lit. **Bury**, *System*, 125-128; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 216-236; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 305-306; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S. 154.

273-275. Θεόδωρος ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς β'τραπέζης (X c.)

273. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18304. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22.5-26 (21 ?) 3 mm. W. 7.95 g. Unsuccessful imprint, corroded and broken into two parts.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 29.

274. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22196. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-25 (21?) 3 mm. W. 6.30 g. Unsuccessful imprint due to looseness of the dies in the boulloterion.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 30.

275. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 28019. Found in the course of excavations of a building in the Southern sector of the Inner City of Veliki Preslav, square 71, dwelling no. 15 (on the floor level), at a depth of 1.00 m, on 9th April 1989. D. 28-28 (23 ?) 2.5 mm.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Prokopios, beardless, holding the martyr's cross (r. hand). Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΑΓΙΕΠ. | ΟΚΟΠ'ΡΟ. | .. ΩΔΟΡΩ | ..ΠΙΤΡ. | ...Ζ..
Ἄγιε Π[ροκοπ(ίω)] βο[ή(θει) Θε]ωδόρω [ὁ ἐ]πὶ τ(ῆς) β'[τραπ(έ)]ζ[ης]

276. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Iliya Stoianov Stamenov from Haskovo). Offered for purchase at the National Historical Museum through Nedialko Dimov from the Historical Museum in Haskovo. Find-spot: the land of the village of Malevo, Haskovo region. D. 25-25 (22) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines. Border of dots:

+ ΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘ' | ΤΩCΩ | Δ8ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots:

+... | CΤΑΝΤ | ΠΑΤΡΙ. | Κ'ΕΠΙΤ' | ΤΡΑΠ.

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ [Κων]σταντ(ίνῳ) πατρι[κ(ίῳ)]καὶ ἐπὶ τ(ῆς)
τραπ(έ)[ζ(ης)]

277. Νικόλαος ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς οἰκειακῆς β'τραπέζης (X c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 14-25 mm. Half specimen.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Unclear image.

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

ΝΙΚΟΛ. | .ΠΗΤ'ΟΙΚ'Ρ' | ΤΡΑΠΕΖ

Νικολ[άω] ἐ]πὶ τ(ῆς) οἰκ(ει)ακῆς β'τραπέζ(ης)

The owner of the seal, presumably a eunuch, attended at the emperor's private table.

The data from the seal are insufficient for searching in the narrative sources.

278. Στέφανος ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς β'τραπέζης (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22965. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-24 (18) 2 mm.

W. 6.30 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, corroded; this renders the reading of the proper name difficult.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 31.

Parallels: Unpublished from Fogg, A. M., no. 1545. Struck by the same bulloterion.

Obv. Unclear bust of a saint (St. Nicholas), blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

No epigraphy visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .Τ.ΑΝ | .ΠΙΤΡ'ΤΡ | ΑΠΕΖΗ | C

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) [Σ]τ[εφ]άν(ω) [ἐ]πὶ τ(ῆς) β'τραπέζης

278A-B. Στέφανος Βαρδαλῆς ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης (end of the XII c.)

a. In a private collection (V. Pantaleev from Varna). Find-spot: the stronghold "Blesna", near the town of Dimitrovgrad. D. 17-32 (32 ?) 3.5 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 84.

b. In a private collection (V. Pantaleev from Varna). Find-spot: the stronghold "Blesna", near the town of Dimitrovgrad. D. 21-32 (?) 2 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint. A piece cut.

Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 85.

Parallels: Braunlin-Nesbitt, Thirteen Seals, no. 8. Struck in the same boulloterion.

Mordtman, Peri, no.41; Seibt, SBS, 3, p. 24; Spink Auction 135 (Oct. 199), no. 284 and three unpublished seals from Zacos, III, collection. They were struck in a different boulloterion.

Obv. Monogram consist letters Φ, Φ, N disposed in column: Στέφανον Border of dots.

Rev. Metrical legend of six lines preceded by cross between two eight-pointed stars:

a. * + * |ΔΑΛΗΝ |ΗCΦΡΑ |ΤΡΑΠΕ |ΟVNTA |KTO | -:..... :-

b. | ΔΗΝ | CΦΡΑ |ΤΡΑΠΕ |ΟVNTA |KTO | -: ...C:-

[+Tὸν Βαρ]δαλῆν [Στέφανον] ἡ σφρα[γὶς γράφει] τραπέ(ζ)ης

[ἐπιστατ]οῦντα [τοῖς ἀνα]κτό[ροις]

279. Ἄνθης? β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ δομέστικος τῆς ὑποργίας τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14694 . Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 15-27(?) 3 mm, W. 4.60 g. Half specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Дебелт-Addenda, № 18; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 124.

Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p.502. We have followed it, when restoring the missing lines of our specimen.

Obv. Military saint (St. George) on horseback pacing to r.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

.ΝΘΗC | Ρ'ΑCΠΑΘ'Ε | ΠΙΤ8ΧΤΡΙΚ |

[Ἄ]νθης β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ χρ(υσο)τρικ(λίνου) [(καὶ) δομέστικος τῆς ὑποργίας τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότη]

Our specimen supplements Schlumberger's by the name of the owner, though partially preserved. The dating to the epoch of the last Komnenoi proposed by Schlumberger is unacceptable. The seal cannot exceed the Xth c., and this is one of the earliest representations of a saint on horseback.

B. Military

a) ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγγλαβίου

One of the most important corps guarding the emperor. Its name comes from the type of armaments characteristic for it. They preceded the emperor in every procession or campaign and bore bludgeons or maces [μαγγλάβιον] on their shoulders, with which they scattered the crowd, similar to the lictors in the Roman empire (Schlumberger, Sig., 537-538; Seibt, Bleisiegel, S.207). They appear in the written sources in the VIIIth c. at the earliest and there is no mention of them after the end of the XIth c. Some of their functions were taken over by various new-found offices, e.g. the vestiarioi, while the basic ones were assumed by the corps of Vardariotai (Oikonomides, Listes, p. 328; Idem, Evolution, p. 129).

The written sources do not give clear information on the chief of the manglabites . Their successors, the Vardariotai, are known to have been under the command of the primikerios. Some investigators assume that the corps of manglabitai was commanded by the hetaireiarches, but since there were four of them, one must have been μαγγλαβίτης (Bury, System, p. 108; Seibt, Bleisiegel, S. 207). The taktikons do not mention any commander, but only their belonging to this corps (Oikonomides, Listes, 149.18; 151.27; 183.30; 199.4,22; 227.4).

Seals bear no mention of commanders of this corps either. For this reason, G. Schlumberger assumes that πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγγλαβίου is actually protos of the manglabitai (Sig., 537-538),but that is not corroborated by written sources. A large number of πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγγλαβίου are known from seals mostly from the Xth-XIth centuries. Due to their high rank, they must have been honorary members of this corps of emperor's bodyguards rather than ordinary guards. Thus, there is evidence of cases when foreigners of high standing, who had switched to service in Byzantium, were affiliated to this corps and thus honored. Such is the case with the Norwegian prince Harold Hadrada (1015-1066), who was conferred the title manglabites for his merits in suppressing the Bulgarian uprising of 1041(see Кекавмен, 283, 285). It is more than obvious that he, who had switched to service in the Empire with his private contingent of free-lances, could not be a regular member of the corps of manglabitai.

280. Γρηνγόριος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15137. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 133. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 16.5 - 19 (15) 2 mm. W. 4.70 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 131
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands raised before her. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- + - |ΘΚΕΡ'Θ'| ΓΡΗΓΟΡ'Α'|CΠΑΘΑΡ'|SΕΠΙΤ'ΜΑΓ | ΛΑΡ'8
+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) Γρηγορ(ίω) (πρωτο)σπαθαρ(ίω) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ)
μαγλαβ(ί)ου

281. Ἐφημηάνος β'σπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (IX-X c.)

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna, no. 159). Find-spot: uncertain ! 12-22 (21?) 3 mm.
W. 4.8 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Another better preserved specimen from the same boulloterion was offered for *Sale: Triton XI, Lot: 1138*. Closing Date: Monday, 7 January 2008. We restore the text of our specimen on its basis.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Between two border of dots circular inscription: . . .
. . . . CΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines. Border of dots.

. + . | + ΕΦΗ . . . | ΔΗΩΡ' . . . | . ΑΡ'Ε . . . | ΜΑΓ . . .
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Ἐφη[μη]άνῳ β'[σπαθ]αρ(ίω) (καὶ) ἐ[πὶ τ(οῦ)]
μαγ[λαβ(ί)ου]

282. Θεόδωρος Ῥαδηνὸς β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.32. Find-spot: unknown. Presumably purchased from Istanbul. D. 20-20 (20) 2 mm. Successful imprint and a bulla in a very good state of preservation. Complete imprint, although the blank was almost equal to the diameter of the dies.
Ed. **Мухомов**, Печати, № 32; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 593.
No parallels known.

Obv. Eagle with spread wings walking l. Circular inscription between a double border of dots dots starting at the top: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗ ΤΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕΟΔ | ΟΡ'Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'SΕΠΙΤ8Μ | ΑΓΛΑΡ' ΟΡ | ΑΔ'ΝΟ starting at the top:
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Θεοδόρ(ω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τοῦ
μαγλαβ(ί)ου το Ῥαδ(η)νο

In his review, W. Seibt (*BZ*, 101, S. 823) noted that the type points to a dating in the second half of the Xth c., with which I agree. The identification with Θεόδωρος ὁ Ῥαδηνὸς β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου, a participant in the synod of May 1030 (see **Ficker**, *Erlasse*, S. 21.6-7), is just an assumption.

283. Κατακαλὼν Ν., β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, presumably Preslav. D. 24-26 mm. Incomplete but well preserved imprint.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘ'ΚΑ | .ΑΚΑΛ'Ρ'| Α'CΠΑ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΕΠΙ | Τ8ΜΑΓ | ΛΑΡ'ΟΤ | ..ΑΚΙ

Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) Κα[τ]ακαλ(ῶν) β'(πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίω)] ἐπὶ τοῦ
μαγλαβ(ί)ου (τ)ο Τζ[ούρ]ακι

The restoration and entire reading is to a certain extent suggested by the existence of another representative bearing a similar family name – Nikephoros (on him, see nos. 1040-1041)

284. Λέων β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X-XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no.845. Found in the course of excavations near the village of Skala, Silistra region, in dwelling no. 5 on the floor of the fireplace. D. 26-29 mm. The obverse is incomplete, the reverse is made slightly off center, subsequently holed.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons. The circular inscription with the invocation is obliterated.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝ | Τ'Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'SΕΠΙΤ' | ΜΑΓΛ. | ΡΙ8

Λέοντ(ι) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) μαγλ[α]βίου

285-314. Λέων Μουκατης β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X-XI c.)

285-308. Twenty-one specimens are preserved in the Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. All twenty-three bullae originate from the Strategia of Preslav.
Ed. **Йорданов**, Преслав, nos. 32-55.

309-313. Recently I have examined further five specimens from private collections, which perhaps have the same origin as the above twenty-three.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, nos. 482-510.

314. RHM-Shumen, no. 14207. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-26 mm. W. 9.69 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 511; **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 132.

314A. In a private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad [XI 2008]). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 26-27 (22.5) 2 mm. W. 8.83 g. Once a good imprint, cut with an adze at its unearthing.

Unpublished.

All twenty seven or twenty eight bullae are from the same boulloterion and have the same origin, Preslav.

Parallels: In his review in BZ (89.2, 1996, 135-138), Seibt reported for another specimen preserved in the Zarnitz collection (no. 491) and wondered whether the patronym had a Slavic origin. This specimen as well as many other from the Zarnitz collection perhaps have a Bulgarian origin, and in this case Preslav is concerned with greater likelihood.

Obv. Bust of Christ, bearded, with a cross behind his head; r. hand raised in blessing, book in l. hand. On either side, the sigla: $\overline{IC} \parallel \overline{XC}$. Circular inscription along the circumference:
+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝ | Τ'Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΕΠΙΤ'Μ | ΑΓΛΑΡΟ | Μ8ΚΑΤ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Λέοντ(ι) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ)
μαγλαβ(ίου) (τ)ο Μουκάτ(η)

315-316. Μαρνανός β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X-XI c.)

315. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 4700. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-25 (21?) 3.5 mm. W. 11.42 g. Unsuccessful imprint. The depiction and lettering are obliterated.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 55.

No parallels known.

316. Private collection (N. Nikolov, from Razgrad). Offered for purchase. Find-spot: Varna region, but the Strategia of Preslav is more probable. D. 20.5-25 (21) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. Parts of the image and inscription did not print, others were blurred. However, the overall reading is not a problem.

Unpublished.

The both specimens were struck in a same bulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown bishop saint (St. Nicholas), blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || NI-KO-A' Remains of the circular inscription: . . .
. . . ΤΩCΩΔ8'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

1. + ΜΑΡΙ | . NOR'Α'C | . ΑΘ'ΣΠΙ | . . VMA | . ΛΑΡ'
2. + ΜΑΡΙ | ΑΝΟΡ'Α'C | ΠΑΘ'ΣΠΙ | . ΟΥΜΑ | ΓΛΑΡ'
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει] τῷ σο δού(λῳ) Μαρνανο β'(πρωτο)σ[π]αθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) (ἐ)πὶ
[τ]οῦ μαγλαβ(ίου)

317. Μιχαήλ β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24562. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 15-25 (21) 1.5 mm.

Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 56.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

- ÷ - | ΜΙ.. | ΙΑΡ'Α'... | Θ'ΣΠ.... | ΜΑ... | R..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

... Ε |ΟΕ |ΠΑ | ... Ε8

+ Μι[χα]ῖλ β'(πρωτο)[σπα]θ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) (ἐ)π[ὶ τοῦ] μα[γλα]β[ίου]

The problem of the commentary on the text of this seal stems in the deciphering of the text on the reverse. In his review in (BZ, 89, S. 135) W. Seibt suggested the following restoration: [Στ]έ[φαν]ο(ς) ἐ[πὶ το]ῦ Πα[νθ]εοῦ. That actually means a seal belonging to two individuals, which is surprising and strange. Perhaps it concerns the other Michael's position connected with his belonging to the corps guarding the Palace ἐπὶ τοῦ Πανθεοῦ (on this title or position, see no. 363).

318. Νικόλαος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X-XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 1303. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 20.5-24 (22) 2.5 mm. W. 5.81 g. Incomplete imprint. There are two cases when bullae of this dignitary are printed from those of John Romaniakes spatharokandidatos (see nos. 698-699)

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand)

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | .ΩΡ'Α'C.... | ΑΙΕΠΙΤ8Μ | ΓΓΛΑΡΙ8
[+ Νικαλά]ω β'(πρωτο) σ[παθ(αρίῳ) κ]αὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μ(α)γλαβίου

319-320. Πέτρος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X c.)

319. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17092. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-29 (19) 2 mm. W. 9.65 g. Unsuccessful imprint, corroded.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 57.

320. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18092. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-21 (19) 2.5 mm. W. 5.05 g. Incomplete imprint. The diameter of the blank is smaller than the diameter of the dies. Good state of preservation in comparison with the above specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 58.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios, beardless, holding the martyr's cross (r. hand). Traces of vertical inscription in two columns: .-.-I || .-PI-O'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΠΕΤΡ | ΟΡ'Α'CΠ. | Θ'ΣΠΙΤ. | ΜΑΓΛ. | ΡΙ.
+ Πέτρο(ς) β'(πρωτο)σ[παθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) (ἐ)πὶ τ[οῦ] μαγλ[α]βί[ου]

321-322. Φηλομάτης β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (X c.)

321. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22482. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23.5-28 (22) 2.1 mm. W. 6.15 g. Once a good imprint, now deeply corroded.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 59.

322. Private collection (B. Baikov from Veliki Preslav). Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 17-28 (22) 3 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.
 Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 60.
 The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globe (l. hand). Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡ'Θ'ΤΩCΩΔ....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΦΗΛΩ | ΜΑΤΙΩ.. | ΠΑΘΑΡ'ΣΕ | ΠΙΤΟΝΜΑ | ΓΛΑΡΙ'
 + Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῶ δ[ούλῳ] Φηλωματίῳ [(πρωτο)σ]παθαρι(ίῳ) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβί(ου)

323. Χοτομηρος β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου (IX-X c.)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no.87. Found in the course of excavations in the kommerkia of Develtos, sector Γ-III, square 94. D. 25-26(21) 3 mm, 10.35 . Very well centered and executed imprint; bulla in a good state of preservation.
 Ed. Йорданов, Девет, № VII.51.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕ.. ΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Vertical inscription of five lines. Border of dots.

+ ΧΟΤΗ | ΑΜΙΡ'СΠ | ΑΘ'ΚΑΝΔΔ'S | ΕΠΙΤ8ΜΑ | ΓΓΛΑΡ'
 + Κ(ύρι)ε [βο]ήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ(ῳ) Χοτηαμip β'σπαθ(αρο)κανδ(ι)δ(άτω) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβί(ου)

A lead seal of Ch...emir imperial spatharios and tourmarches of Adrianoupolis is preserved in DO. 55. 1. 1385 (see **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, no. 44.10).

Obviously, we are dealing here with two different groups of seals belonging to one person, and the common element besides the identical names is also the continuity in his titles and positions. The Develt seal reflects a later period of his career.

It is likewise clear that the name XOTHAMIP on our seal and XOTEAMIP on the Dumbarton Oaks one is not Greek. The suffix MIP incorporates it into the group of the Slavic names similar to the Slavic proper names XOTEMIP, XOTIMIP, etc., or the Slavic toponyms, such as XOTOMIP. The name of Χοτομηρος is also reported among the names of the Slavic martyrs who died in Bulgaria in 813 (see **Folieri, E., I. Dujcev**, Un' acolutia inedita per i martiri di Bulgaria dell'anno 813.- *Byzantion*, 23,1963, 76.23; 105,n.1).

The owner of the Develt seal must have been a Slav belonging to the Slavic tribes in Byzantium. In the end of the IXth c., he was a spatharios and functioned as tourmarches of Adrianoupolis. In a later period, he was promoted to the rank of the imperial spatharokandidatai and attached to the corps of the manglabitai.

Who in Develtos did he write to? One possible answer is: to his acquaintance holding the office of kemmerkiarios of Develtos who used to be his neighbor in service at the time when he sojourned in this part of the country. Of course, his correspondence could likewise be in connection with his immediate duties. The representatives of this corps were quite

often sent on missions by order of the emperor.

It is quite possible that the Slav Chotomir was charged with some kind of mission in the context of the Bulgarian-Byzantine relationships in the end of the IXth and the beginning of the Xth centuries.

The connection with the Arabic AMIP should also be taken into consideration.

b) βαρδάριος

According to the commentary of the written sources, the vardariotai were Turkish population settled by Emperor Theophilos (829-842) in the valley of the river Vardar as stratiotai with the task to guard Thessalonike and its hinterland against the Bulgarian raids. As being part of the respective theme, they had their own military and civil administration. Along with that, it is also known that their representative military unit with its own uniform and acclamation was located in Constantinople and specifically in the Palace Guard. This military Guard unit was also in existence during the reign of Nikephoros II (963-969), since it was mentioned by bishop Liutdprand during his embassy in Constantinople (*Lit. Laurent, V. Ο Βαρδαριωτῶν ητοι Τουρκων. Perses, Turcs asiatique ou Turcs hongrois.- ИБИД*, 16-17, 1934, 275-289; *Idem, L'evêque des Turcs et le proedre Turquie.- Bull. hist. de l'Acad. roumaine*, 23,1943, 147-158).

There is no information on them in the XIth c. In the XIIth c. and later, they appear again in written sources as a corps guarding the emperor succeeding that of the manglabitai, but it is assumed that they were already recruited from a different Turkish nation that had appeared on the Balkans – the Magyars (see **Oikonomides, N.** Vardariotes: Hongrois installes dans la valee du Vardar en 934.-*Südost-Forschungen*, 32,1973, 1-8).

324-347. Πησοτα βαρδάριος (X c.)

324. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 252. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-20 (15) 3.5 mm. W. 11.90 g. The upper die of the boulloterion was deeply impressed in the blank.
 Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 61; Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 311, № 1.

325. Private collection (Emil Kosev from Shumen). Find-spot: Pliska? D. 20-20 mm.
 Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 311, № 3.

326. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. Find-spot: the medieval center for working non-ferrous metals located between the villages of Nadarevo, Baiachevo and Pevets at 7-8 km from Preslav. D. 18-21 mm. Bulla in a poor state of preservation. Incomplete imprint.
 Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 311, 4.

327. Private collection (a collector from Sofia). Presumably the same find-spot as the above but it was bought second hand. D.16-20 mm. Bulla in a poor state of preservation. Incomplete imprint.
 Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 311, no. 5.

328 Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Found by N. Ovcharov with a metal detector in the Inner City of Veliki Preslav in the non-excavated area opposite the Palace in the summer of 1999. D. 19-21 (16) 2. 5-7 mm. Off-centered imprint. The boulloterion was loosened and the blank slipped in it. Only one end was struck.
 Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 311, № 6.

329. Private collection (N. Nikolov, from Razgrad). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 18-18 (16) 5 mm.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 311, № 7.

330. As above. D. 19-20 (18) 3-7 mm. W. 12.09. Seemingly "bitten" at one end by the boulloterion.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 312, № 8.

331. As above. D. 18-19 (16) 4.5-6.5 mm. W. 13.65. Shapeless blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 312, № 9.

332. As above. D. 17.5-20 (15) 5-5.5 mm. W. 9.56.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 312, № 10.

333. As above. D. 17-17 (16) 5.5 mm. W. 9.61. Blank cut at one end.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 312, № 11.

334. As above. D. 16-17 (16) 5.5 mm. W. 11.40.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 312, № 12.

335. As above. D. 18-18 (16) 5 mm. It has a depiction on the obverse as with nos. 1-7.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 312, № 13.

336. RHM-Shumen, no. 14677. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 19-20 (18) 3-7 mm. W. 12.09 g. Seemingly "bitten" at one end by the boulloterion.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 125.

337. RHM-Shumen, no. 14722/6. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 15-16 (?) 3-5 mm. W. 7.60 g. As above. Seemingly "bitten" at one end by the boulloterion. In a poor state of preservation. Great imagination is needed as to identify it with the remaining.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 126.

338. RHM-Shumen, no. 14786. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 16-17 (18) 3 mm. W. 8.80 g. There is a swelling on the cross on this and the next specimen. Presumably the boulloterion was out of order. Good imprint. Now a portion cut.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 127.

339. RHM-Shumen, no. 14806. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 20-21 (15) 4.1 mm. W. 14.90 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation but slightly off center. The boulloterion "bit" the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 128.

340. RHM-Shumen, no. 15272. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 16-17 (18) 3 mm. W. 15.46 g. In a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 129.

341. RHM-Shumen, no. 15033. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 15-16 (?) 2-6 mm. W. 7.14 g. As the above, seemingly "bitten" at one end in the boulloterion. Parts of the matrix remained out of the blank due to this slipping.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 130.

342. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 125. Found by T. Balabanov in the course of archaeological excavations in the Inner City of Preslav, Palace center site, sector 162, square 15, depth 1.30 m on 23rd August 2005. D. 21-21 (?) 5 mm, W. 12.68 g. In a poor state of preservation, oxidated. The inscription is hardly visible.

Unpublished.

343. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 109. Found by T. Balabanov in the course of archaeological excavations in the Inner City of Preslav, Palace center site, sector 162, square 15, depth 0.20 m on 18th August 2005. D. 21-21 (?) 5 mm, W. 13.12 g. Complete specimen in a good state of preservation. The

channel swelling on the obverse remained unpressed and the image of the cross did not print.

Unpublished.

344. Archaeological Museum, Pliska. Found by Yanko Dimitrov in the Inner City during a walking of the pedestrian alley in the direction of the western gate – southern gate at 90 m in the western side in the summer of 2007, field no. 15. D. 18-19 (15?) 5-5.5 mm. W. 12.71 g. Specimen in a good state of preservation and well-printed. The image of a cross is missing on the obverse and there is a swelling and horizontal lines instead.

Unpublished

344A. Archaeological Museum, Pliska. № 38. Found during excavations in Pliska supervised by Valeri Grigorov, Eastern Citadel site, square G7, depth 0.65 m, on 11th August 2008. A slipping and biting in the boulloterion is observed. As above, horizontal lines occupying the whole field instead of the image of the cross.

Unpublished

344B. Archaeological Museum, Pliska. № 19. Found during excavations in Pliska supervised by V. Grigorov, Eastern Citadel site, square G8, depth 0.55 m, on 6th August 2008. D. 15-15 (?) 7 mm. W. 9.72 g. Shapeless blank of an incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. As above, horizontal lines instead of the image of the cross.

Unpublished

345. RHM-Shumen, no. 15460. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07.07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 18-18 (16) 4 mm. W. 8.88 g. Complete imprint in good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

346. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 110. Found in the course of excavations of the Ruler's Church in the Inner City of Preslav, square 162/112, depth 0.20 m, in a dark layer, 2.27 m SE, 2.95 m SW. D. 20-20 (?) 3-4.7 mm, W. 8.3 g.

Unpublished

347. Private collection (Atanas Baichev from Targovishte). Find-spot: the village of Ovcharovo, dist. Targovishte. D. 19-20 (15) 4-6 mm. Shapeless blank, thicker at one end. Low-quality imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Писота вардарий, с. 311, № 2.

The twenty-six specimens already known were struck in two different pairs of dies or one was repaired. For the remaining eleven specimens found in Bulgaria, see Йорданов, Писота вардарий, 311-312.

No parallels known.

Obv. Simple cross on four steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩΣΩΔ8ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

✦ | + ΠΗCO | TARAP | ΔΑΡΙΩ | ✦

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Πησοτα βαρδαρίῳ

The twenty-six are already known struck in the same boulloterion, in which certain changes have been observed regarding its condition:

The reverse of the thirteen specimens was struck with the same die. No cross is visible on the reverse of some specimens: it is either deformed or replaced with a swelling. We cannot be sure about the reason for this change; as it seems the boulloterion was out of order and no depiction was made.

Who was Pisota and how could we explain the discovery in Bulgaria of such a large number of his lead seals?

His name relates him to the Slavic nation.

What is the dating of Pisota's seal and how could we relate his person to his belonging to the vardariotai?

The dating of the seal, according to its iconography, paleography and text, is generally to the IXth-Xth centuries; thus the position of the owner of the seal should have been an effective one and not a title. The belonging of the Slav Pisota to this military corps attests that the Turks settled in the valley of the river Vardar by Emperor Theophilos towards the end of the IXth c. had already assimilated the great mass of neighboring Slavs and that Slavs were also included in that Corps.

The other very important question is how to explain the discovery in Bulgaria of more than twenty-four bullae of this Byzantine dignitary.

In my previous publications, I assumed both possibilities:

1. Pisota, a Slav by origin and a member of the dignified part of the Vardariotai, was dispatched to Bulgaria on some kind of special mission or accompanying some important Byzantine dignitary. In pursuance of his duties, he had to maintain written contact with various representatives of the Bulgarian state.

2. The Slav Pisota, formerly in Byzantine service, had switched over to service with the Bulgarian ruler keeping his Byzantine title.

In the light of the new finds, the latter assumption seems more convincing:

a) twenty-six of his lead seals were found in the territory of modern Bulgaria;

b) with six or more specimens, a malfunction of the boulloterion is observed and since there was no one was to repair it he continued impressing his correspondence with seals of no depiction on the obverse.

The discovery of bullae of the same dignitary in the vicinity of a working complex for production of nonferrous metals located near the present-day village of Nadarevo, i.e. in the suburbs of the Second Bulgarian capital, suggests a further possibility which on the face of it seems fictional.

Various materials attesting to its activity originate from the same complex. A sample of a coin seal for Byzantine solidus on a lead sheet is particularly interesting in our case.

It is possible that Pisota Vardarios's active correspondence sent to the complex for working non-ferrous metals was to a person or an organization located there and connected with the official production of imitations of Byzantine solidus.

Of course, the assumption that Pisota Vardarios who had switched over to service with the Bulgarian ruler was charged with the organization of this production is rather far-fetched, but the fact that thirteen of his bullae were discovered in the vicinity of the Bulgarian capital attests to his active participation in the life of the Bulgarian state in the end of the IXth and the Xth centuries.

c) βεστιάριτης

An office first attested in 1049 (see *Sathas, MB*, V, p. 197) with a wide scope of responsibilities united by the common element of being charged with confidential missions by the emperor as accompanying foreign embassies, convoying exiles to the place of exile, etc., i.e. the functions performed by the manglabitai until the Xth-XIth centuries (see *Oikonomides, Evolution*, 129-130).

The written sources from the years of the reign of Nikephoros III Botaneiates (1078-1081) provide grounds for distinction of two groups of vestiaritai:

ἐσὼ βεστιάριται, at the head of which was a grand primikerios, who were attached to the state treasury;

οἰκειακοὶ βεστιάριται, at the head of which was also a grand primikerios, but they guarded the emperor's private treasury (see *Oikonomides, Evolution*, 129-130).

Thus, these are two military formations charged with the guarding of the emperor's private and public state treasuries, which means that the members of this corps had effective positions, but soon after that the position developed into a honorific title.

According to Anna Komnene, a special army contingent was formed from them in 1082 (*Alexiade*, I, 152.2).

It became obsolete at the end of the same XIth c.

348. Ἰωάννης Ἀγιοαντονίτης πατρίκιος καὶ βεστιάριτης (second half, XI c.)

RHM-Kurdzhali. Find-spot: the vicinity of the monastery in "Veseltchane" district. D.19-19.5 (18) 4 mm.

Judging by the size of the blank, it was well-centered, but the last two lines did not print.

Ed. *Jordanov, Family Names*, no. 6.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding book (l. hand) On either side the inscription: Θ -NI-K' || Λ -A-.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ἸΩ ΠΡΠ | S | ΡΕCΤΗΑΡΙ | ΤΙΤΩΑΓΙ | ΑΝΤΟΝ | Τ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἰω(άννη) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) βεστιάριτι τῷ

Ἀγι(ο)αντον(ί)τ(η)

349. Κωνσταντῖνος σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ βεστιάριτης (XI c.)

Private collection (E. Kosev, Shumen). Offered for purchase at Historical Museum, Varna. Find-spot: uncertain (Preslav ?). D. 21-22(20) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint, parts of the dies did not print. Weak imprint on the obverse or subsequently obliterated.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown beardless military saint (St. George ?) holding a spear in r. hand.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'. | ΚΩΝC.. | .Ρ'Κ'ΔΔ'. | .ΕCΤ.. | - Ρ.Τ'-

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει)] Κων(σταντίνω) σ[παθ(α)]ρ(ο)κ(αν)δ(ι)δ(άτω) [(καὶ)
β]εστ[ια]ρ[ί]τ(ι)

d) ἑταιρειάρχης / ἐπὶ τῆς ἑταιρείας

Palace Guards, a corps of the emperor's bodyguards. It is earliest attested in the narrative sources in the years of Leo V (813-820). It was composed of many subdivisions, which were also called ἑταιρεῖαι.

At least three hetaireia existed under Leo VI (886-912) until 946 inclusive:

μεγάλη ἑταιρεῖαι - composed of Macedonians;

ἑταιρεῖαι τῆς μέσης - open to foreigners as well;

ἐταιρεῖαι τῆς τρίτης, in which the separate contingents were named according to their origin Φάργανοι and Χάζροι

Lit. Bury, System, 106-108; Ahrweiler, Recherches, p. 27; Oikonomides, Listes, 327-328).

In the taktikon of Escorial, a fourth one also appear: ἐταιρεῖαι τῶν ηζῶν, composed of foot soldiers presumably Russians (Oikonomides, *Listes*, S 271.25, p. 328).

At the head of these four departments were ἐταιρειάρχαι, of which the highest in rank was μέγας ἐταιρειάρχης. It is usually assumed that he must have been a eunuch. While there are very few extant seals of ἐταιρειάρχαι, the number of those whose owners are ἐπὶ τῆς ἐταιρείας or ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας is surprisingly large.

What were they like?

According to W. Seibt, they were higher or lower-ranking members of this Guard, but not commanders of the *hetaireia*. Or they were titled officers from the private emperor's bodyguard, for whom belonging to the *hetaireia* added an extra honorific title(Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, 210-211).

In the XIth c., the *hetaireia* was retained, but its departments had different fates. The role of the *hetaireia* recruited from foreigners (Russians, Varangians, Germans, English, etc.) increased and ἀκόλουτος by that time assistant of δρουγγάριος τῆς βίγλας was already the chief of this corps.

The chief of the remaining guards until the ascension of Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118) was the μέγας ἐταιρειάρχης (see Oikonomides, *Evolution*, p. 130).

da) ἐπὶ τῆς ἐταιρείας or ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας.

350. Ἀνδρέας β'σπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς ἐταιρείας (IX-X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 42. Found in the course of excavations of the monastery near the Round Church, sector U, square C.5, at a depth of 0.60-0.80 m, on 29th September 1977. D. 21.5-24 (19) 2 mm. Well-centered imprint, yet some parts of the dies did not print. The surface of the bulla is in an excellent state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base up to and beyond lower transverse bar, to r. and l. a six-rayed star. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + O..... ΦΡΑΓΙΣΜΟΙΚΑΙΡΛΕΠΙ

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots:

+ ΑΝΔΡ | ΕΑΡ'CΠΑ | ΘΑΡ'SΕΠ. | .ΗCΕΤΑΙ | ΡΕΙΑC

+ Ο[ὑπερ σ]φραγίς μοι καὶ βλέπ(ο)ι Ἀνδρέα β'σπαθαρί(ω) (καὶ) ἐπ[ὶ τ]ῆς ἐταιρείας

The data are insufficient for searching in the narrative sources. The dating of the bulla, according to its iconography, paleography of the letters and text, is to the IXth-Xth centuries, thus posing the question of its discovery in Preslav.

Who was the correspondence of this Byzantine dignitary addressed to? It seems illogical to assume that he was a commander of the emperor's guards. It could be assumed that Andrew was charged with a certain mission at the Bulgarian ruler's court, in pursuance of

which he had to enter in correspondence with various Bulgarian dignitaries and why not with the Bulgarian ruler Symeon himself, during whose rulership (especially in its earlier period) there were many an occasion for exchange of messages with the Byzantine basileus. All the more that, according to the finder of the bulla, it was discovered in the palace monastery, which Symeon logically must have frequented and where he could have received a message from an envoy of the Byzantine emperor.

The chronicles of Symeon Logothetes, George Monk Continuatos and the Pseudo-Symeon report the name of Andrew hetaireiarches during the reign of Michael III in connection with the appearance of Basil the Macedonian on the historical stage (see Guillard, *Recherches*, I. 439; *PMBZ*, no. 408).

It seems quite improbable that it applies to the same individual, but a coincidence is always possible.

351. Βασίλειος ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-25 (20) 2.14 mm. Incomplete imprint. Only the letters and image on the channel printed.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of military Saint holding spear (r. hand) and round shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

CR'Θ' | ACIA . . | CΠIT. | MET | I.

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) [B]ασιλ[ίω] ὁ] ἐπὶ τ[ῆς μ(ε)γ(άλ)ης] ἐτ[ε]ρ(ίας)

352. Δημήτριος β'σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17595. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-20 (15) 2 mm. W. 4.25 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation, corroded.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 62.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscriptions: ΩCΩΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines.

| ΔΗ. | TP'R'CΠΑ | Θ'ΚΑΝΔ.. | ΕΠ.ΤΜ.Γ | ΕΤΕΡ'

| [+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τ]ῷ σ[ω] δούλ(ω) Δη[μη]τρ(ίω) β'σπαθ(αρο)καν[δ(ι)δ(ά)τ(ω)]
(καὶ) ἐπ[ὶ τ]ῆς μ[ε]γ[α]λ[η]ς ἐτερ(ίας)

353. Θεόγνοστος β'σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς ἐταιρείας (X-XI c.)

Private collection (B. Baikov from Veliki Preslav). Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-28 (22) 3 mm.

Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription:
OHΘEI.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΕΟΓ | ΝΩCΤ'Ρ'CΠ | ΑΘ'ΚΑΝΔ' | ΕΠΗΤΗC | ΕΤΕΡΙΑ
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β]οήθ(ει) [τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Θεογνώστ(ω) β'σπαθ(αρο)κανδ(ιδάτ(ω) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τῆς ἐτερί(ας)

354. Κωνσταντῖνος Ν., ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας (XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-24 mm. Incomplete imprint, which renders the reading of the patronym difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription in two columns: : Θ-ΓΕ-ΟΡ || ...

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΚΩΝCΤΑΝ | ..ΕΠΙΤ'ΜΕ | ..Ρ'ΤΟΔ. | - ..ΚΑ -
Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Κωνσταν(τίνω) [τῷ] ἐπὶ τ(ῆς) μ(ε)γ(άλ)ης ἐ[τε]ρ(ίας) το
Δ(ε)[ρμ]ο[κα]ίτη

The proposed restoration of the patronym is only one possible variant. The existence of another specimen in the collection of Fogg, A. M. no. 1009 gives me certain grounds for that.

Obv. Two standing figures.

Rev. + ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΚΩΝΑ'CΠ'ΘΑ | Ρ'ΕΠΙΤ'XR'NO | ΤΑΡ'ΚΡΙΤ'Τ8 | Ρ'Λ'ΣΕΠΙΤ8Ι |
ΠΠΟΔΡ... | Τ'ΔΕΡΜ. | -Κ'Τ'-

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Κων(σταντίνω) (πρωτο)σπ(α)θαρ(ίω) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ)
χρ(υσοτριγκλίνου) β'νοταρ(ίω) κριτ(ῆ) τοῦ β(ί)λ(ου) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τοῦ
ἵπποδρ[όμου] τ(ῷ) Δερμ[ο]κ(αί)τ(η)

355-356. Μανασσής β'πρωτοσπαθάρος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας (X-XI c.)

355. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19202. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-23 (over 23) 4 mm. W. 13.85 g. Well-preserved, but incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 63.

356. RHM-Shumen, no. 15455. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 13.5-15.5 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 4.92 g. Small trimmed blank; nevertheless, the image of the bird is preserved. We can only speculate about this subsequent manipulation on the seal.

Unpublished.

The both specimens are struck in a same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Peacock with a tail outspread. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- 0 - | + ΜΑΝΑ | CΡ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΕΠΙΤ'Μ | ΕΤΕΡΙΑ | 000
| ... ΑΝΑ | .R'Α'C... | .ΣΕΠΙ... | .ΤΕΡΙΑ |

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Μανασῆ β' (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) ἐπὶ
τ(ῆς) μ(ε)γ(άλ)ης ἐτερί(ας)

The owner of the seal affixed to Preslav correspondence is a certain Μανασσής β'πρωτοσπαθάρος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας. He is unknown from narrative sources.

357. Ν., πρωτοσπαθάρος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐταιρείας (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22147. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (?) 2 mm. W. 5.40 g. Corroded and holed.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 64.

No parallels known.

Obv. Trace of a patriarchal cross with fleurons and a circular inscription:.....VΛ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

... CΠ. |ΧΓΚ. | ΣΕΠΙΤ.. | Γ'Ε...

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δο]ύλ(ω)[Ίω(άννη (πρωτο)]σπ[αθ(αρίω) [ἐπὶ
τ(οῦ)] χρ(υσοτρι)γκ[λίνου]] (καὶ) ἐπὶ τ(ῆς) [με]γ(άλ)ης ἐ[τε]ρ(ίας)]

358. Ν., β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐτεαρίας (X c.)

Private collection. Presented to me for documentation by Evgeni Marinov from Varna. Reported find-spot: the northern Black Sea coast. D. 17-17 (20?) 4 mm. The blank seems subsequently cut and shaped with a knife.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons. Remains of a circular inscription:

+ΚΕΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | OR'CΠΑ. | ΚΑΝΔ'ΣΕ. | ΗΤΙCΜΕ | Γ'ΕΤΕΡ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ] δούλ(ω) [.....]ο β'σπα[θ(αρο)]κανδ(ιδάτ(ω)
(καὶ) ἐ[π]ῆ τῆς μεγ(άλ)ης ἐτερ(ίας)

359. Ν., β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐτεαρίας (X c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Offered for purchase at the Historical Museum, Shumen. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-25 mm (21) 2 mm. Half of what was once incomplete imprint, which renders the reading difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a bust of St. Nicholas. Traces of a vertical inscription at r.: ...|| K-O-A. Remains of a circular inscription:.....ΤΩ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+R... | .ΙΩ.... | .Θ'ΚΑ... | .ΕΠΙ.. | ΕΤΕ.. |
+RACI | ΛΙΩΡ'CΠ | ΑΘ'ΚΑΝΔΔ | ΣΕΠΙΤΟΝ | ΜΕΤΕΡ |
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ [σῷ δούλ(ω) Β[ασιλ]ίω [β'σπα]θ(αρο)]κα[νδ(ιδάτω)
(καὶ)] ἐπὶ [τ(ῆς) μ(ε)γ(άλῃς)] ἐτε[ρ(ίᾳς)]

db) ἐταιρειάρχης / μέγας ἐταιρειάρχης

360. Ἰωαννακὴς β'πρωτοσπαθάρης καὶ ἐταιρειάρχης (XIc.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 128. Found in the course of excavations of the so-called Grazhdanski Complex in Selishte locality in the Outer City of Preslav. D. 27-27 (20) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint, especially on the obverse.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown bishop saint, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription:... || .-OV-C. Traces of a circular inscription along a border of dots. ΩΔΟΝΑ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- - - | ΙΩΑΝΝ | ΑΚ'Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΕΤΕΡΙ | ΑΡΧΗ | - - -
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Ἰωάννακ(η) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ)
ἐτεριάρχῃ]

The data are insufficient for identification with a personage from narrative sources; nevertheless, the name is quite characteristic and rare that it allows for certain conjectures.

A person by these names is attested during the reign of Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118). It refers to one of the military commanders. The problem is that in the various sources he is known by the sobriquet Joannakes. In the two basic sources for Alexios I's reign, he is differently reported. While Anna Komnene used the sobriquet Joannakes more frequently and rarely added the name Kourtikios, Nikephoros Bryennios almost always put them down together (*Skoulatos*, *Personnages*, p. 43, n.1).

The authors of the prosopography of the Kourtikios family and of the personages from the Alexiad have no doubt that this name covers the person of Basil Kourtikios (**Каждан**, *Армяне*, 5:3; *Skoulatos*, *Personnages*, no 28). On him, see **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 379-382.

361. Πόθος πριμικήριος, κοιτῶνος καὶ μέγας ἐταιρειάρχης (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22868. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-26 (over 25) 3mm. W. 10. 90 g. Incomplete imprint, some letters are slightly effaced; damaged with a sharp object.

Ed. Аладжов, *Архиепископия*, с.30, обр. 12-13, рис. 15-16; **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 65.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael facing, beardless, dressed in imperial garb, holding a scepter

(r. hand) and a globus (l. hand). In the field l. and r.: M - I || X - .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΟΘΩΑ'ΜΙ | ..ΟΙΤΩΝ' | ..ΕΤΑΙ | ΡΕΙΑΡΧ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [Π]όθω (πρι)μι[κ(ηρίω) κ]οιτῶν(ος) [(καὶ) μ(ε)γ(άλω)]
ἐταιρειάρχ(η)

In the original publication, the text of the seal was not completely deciphered. Its publisher proposed the following reading:

+ ΚΕΡ' | ..ΘΕΩΑ'ΜΙΚ | ..ΟΙΤΟΝΙ | ...ΚΑΙΡΝΡΚV
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει) Μ]α]θέω (πρι)μικ(ηρίω) [κ]οιτονιτοι] (καὶ)

I have eliminated these errors in my reading, but due to the lack of two or three letters in line 4, the position has not been specified. Of the two possible variants [(καὶ) μ(ε)γ(άλω)] ἐταιρειάρχ(η) and [(καὶ) ἐταιρειάρχ(η)], I have favoured the latter. Now, in the light of the drawn parallels, the former could be accepted with much certainty.

Various collections throughout the world contain bullae that could be associated with the same dignitary:

1. The collection of the Hermitage (M-8076):

Obv. St. Michael as above.

Rev. - - - | ΠΟΘΩ | ..ΜΙΚ'ΕΠΙ | Τ'ΚΟΙΤ'Ρ'ΚΑ. |Τ'ΧΑΛ | .ΙΑC

There are differences regarding the reading of the last three lines, which is not of great importance to us. N. P. Lihachev proposes the following: + Πόθω [β'πρι]μικ(ηρίω) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) κοιτ(ῶνος) β' κα[τεπάνω] τ(ῆς) Χαλ[δ]ίας (see **Лихачев**, *Моливодоулы*, табл. LXIII.5); while W. Seibt favors: + Πόθω [πρι]μικ(ηρίω) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) κοιτ(ῶνος) β(ασιλικῷ) καὶ [κρ]ιτ(ῆ) Χαλ[δ]ίας and dates it to XI c. (**Лихачев**, *Моливодоулы*, с.102, з.1).

2. From the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58. 106. 5483):

Obv. St. Michael as above.

Rev. - - - | ΠΟΘΩ | Α'CΠΑΘ'Ε | ΠΙΤ8ΚΟΙ | Τ'SMΕΤΑ | ΡΑΡΧΗ |
+ Πόθω (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτ(ῶνος) (καὶ) μ(ε)γ(άλω)
ἐτα(ι)ρ(ει)άρχῃ]

3. The collection of the Hermitage (M-8089) contains a metal copy (tessera?) of a lead seal with D. 18 mm and W. 2.05 g. (see **Schlumberger**, *Tesseres*, p.92.3).

Obv. St. Michael as above.

Rev. + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΠΟΘΩ ΠΡΙ | ΚΙ'СПРАΙ | ΠΟCIT |
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Πόθω πα(τρ)ικί(ω) or πρι(μι)κι(ρίω) (καὶ) πραιποσίτ(ω)

Obviously, there is a connection between these four groups of seals. Common is not only the name and iconographic subject, but there is also continuity between the titles and positions.

Pothos was clearly a eunuch. Initially he held the titles πριμικήριος and κοιτῶνος. Subsequently he was promoted to the rank of πρωτοσπαθάρης for eunuchs, and in the last case, provided the deciphering is correct, he is already πατρίκιος. There is logic and continuity in his positions as well. Initially he served in the provincial administration as a judge or a katepano of Chaldia, later he became a member of the great hetaireia and presumably occupied a palace position to end up as a praepositos, provided this also is not a title. His career is normal and valid for a lot of dignitaries connected with the Palace.

The above groups of seals outline the following cursus honorum of Pothos:

1. πριμικήριος, κοιτῶνος καὶ κριτῆς Χαλδίας (1030s)
2. πριμικήριος, κοιτῶνος καὶ μέγας ἐταιρειάρχης (1030s-1040s)

3. πρωτοσπαθάριος, κοιτώνος καὶ μέγας ἐταιρειάρχης (1040s)
4. πατρίκιος καὶ πραιπόσιτος (1050s)

dc) ἐταιρεάρχης τῆς τρίτης

This unit of guards, as noted above, is first attested in the taktikon of Escorial. It was mainly composed of foreigners. Each detachment in it was named after the origin of the soldiers (see *Oikonomides, Listes*, 271.21; 327-328). It is not known until when it existed.

As far as I know, the sphragistic monument presented below is the first on which it was inscribed. Unfortunately, the incomplete text of the seal cannot offer us any further information.

362. Λέων or Θεόδωρος Ἀλυάτης καὶ ἐταιρεάρχης τῆς τρίτης (mid-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30423. Found in the vicinity of the village of Klokotnitsa. Formerly in the collection of D. Dimitrov from Pernik. D. 25-26 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 27.

No parallels known.

Obv. Superb bust of St. Theodore facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Vertical inscription: || Δ-Ω- Ρ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..ΕΩ. | ...SETE | ΠΙΑΡΧΗC | ΤΗCΤΡIT | ΟΑΛΗΑ | - Τ'-

[+ Θ]εώ[δ(ωρος) [+ Λ]έω[ν π(ατ)ρί(κιος)]καὶ ἐτεριάρχης τῆς τρίτ(ης) ὁ Ἀληάτ(ης)

e) πανθεώτης / ἐπὶ τοῦ πανθέου

Regarding their origin and duties, there are various opinions which polarize the following two viewpoints:

a) They constitute a type of thematic army related to a particular theme (*Василевский, Советы*, с. 274; *Златарски*, История, II, с. 59, 6.2; *Литаврин, Кекавмен*, с. 175, прим. 32);

b) they are a type of palace guards whose name was connected with one of the palace rooms Πάνθεον (*De cer.*, I, p.581; *Ahrweiler*, Recherches, p. 28, n. 9; *Oikonomides*, Evolution, p. 129, n. 25).

In the light of the information from the seal presented below, the second viewpoint is more convincing. They are a guard corps from the Palace security guards and their duties were similar to those of the manglabitai. Their earliest attestation in written sources is from the late Xth c., when they are mentioned together with the manglabitai in the description of the military camp (*Dennis, Treatises*, 250.119; 334-335, Pl. 10E-10F). Just like with the manglabitai, there are known cases of belonging to this corps (the name of a certain Τουβακίος σπαθαροκανδιῶτος ἐπὶ τοῦ πανθέου, which is actually a honorific title, is reported in a document from Italy dated May 1054, see *Trinichera, Syllabus*, p. 53). The chronicles report that the future Emperor Michael IV (1034-1041) was ἄρχων τοῦ πανθέου during the reign of Romanos III (1028-1034) (see *Skylitzes*, 390.80).

This office is characterized by its quick development into a title and its disappearance from written sources as early as the late XIth c. (*Oikonomides*, Evolution, p. 129).

363. Μανουὴλ Τζηντζιλύκης πρωτοσπαθάριος, πανθεώτης καὶ πριμικήριος (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22901. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-29 (20) 2.5 mm. W. 13.91 g. Unsuccessful imprint. Dislocation due to looseness of the dies in the boulloterion. Missing letters, which makes the reading uncertain.

Ed. *Йорданов, Преслав*, № 66; *Jordanov, F. Name*, no. 715.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Panteleimon blessing with his r. hand in front of his chest and holding a scroll in his l. hand. Vertical inscription: || T- Ε-Λ-Ε'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

÷|+ ΜΑΝ8Η'| .CΠΑΘ'ΠΑΝ | Θ'ΣΠΙΜΙΚ | ΤΩΤINT | Λ'

+Μανουή(λ) [(πρωτο)]σπαθ(αρίω) πανθ(εώτη) (καὶ) πριμικ(ηρίω) τῷ

Τζῖντζι(λ)ύκη

3. Rank titles

This part contains seals whose owners were represented in the rank lists solely by their titles. Of course, when interpreting each one of them, we need to determine whether it is a title or an effective position. Each seal has to be examined within the period during which it accompanied the correspondence of its owner to the recipient in Bulgaria. That is not always possible, as a result of which there is the risk of mistaking a position for a title.

The seals are arranged according to the alphabetical order of the titles.

One can get a certain idea of the place each title occupied in the hierarchy of the VIIIth-IXth centuries following the research of F. Winkelmann Rang- und Amteestruktur; the surviving contemporary taktikons are of great importance for the IXth-XIth centuries (see *Oikonomides, Listes*, 47-63; 81-235; 243-262 and the collations made by the same author on p. 303), while for the XIth c. it is the chrysobulla of Michael VII (1071-1078) intended for Robert Guiscard in 1074 (see *Lemerle, Cinq etudes*, p. 94). The comparison between the titles in these two groups of documents gives us certain idea of their changes and evolution.

In the late XIth and the early XIIth centuries, essential changes occur mostly regarding the introduction of the new titulature by Alexios I Komnenos. The new titles which occupied the highest positions in the rank hierarchy were conferred on the emperor's close associates. The bearers of old titles gradually fell behind in the rank hierarchy, their titles lost their importance and gradually became obsolete. That however was a long evolutionary process for which reason we can find bearers of the old titles in the XIIth-century narrative sources.

The previous attempts of investigators to propose a clear rank hierarchy of the titles in Byzantium (see *Скабеланович, Византийское государство*, 149-151; *Каждан, Соц. состав*, 104-109 and others) were unsuccessful due to the evolution of the titles and mostly due to the lack of sufficient information.

Another problem is how to distinguish the titles intended for eunuchs from those conferred on ordinary nobles. That is not always possible to do, especially for those referring to the period XIth-XIIth centuries, as is likewise impossible in the narrative sources, unless

a special mention has been made.

Of certain interest to us are the seals bearing more than one title of their owner arranged according to the rank hierarchy. Why was it necessary to inscribe the previous titles occupying a lower position in the palace hierarchy? Perhaps the answer is very simple connected with the reception of the roga (a yearly rent) for each one of them.

a) ἀνθύπατος

Proconsul. It was reintroduced under Theophilos (829-842) and was different from the ancient office proconsul, who was a civil governor of a province. The latter was in existence until the IXth c.

The anthypathos, like the rest of the titles and offices, was initially a sole and later a honorific position to end up as an ordinary title held by many dignitaries. In the early period of its restoration in the IXth c. and in the beginning of the XIth c., it occupied a foremost position in the rank lists, but after 1050s it was already of a medium rank and corresponded to the position of a lower strategos, a judge of a small theme or a higher dignitary in some of the central departments.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 28-29; Guiland, *Recherches*, II, 68-69; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p.294.

The combination πατρίκιοι-ἀνθύπατοι is found in the IXth-Xth-century documentary sources. It is likewise inscribed on seals (see no. 370). This may be a case of two titles, i.e. a case of more precise definition of the rank πατρίκιοι. Hence πατρίκιοι-ἀνθύπατοι were of higher rank than ordinary patrikioi (Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S.223).

Individuals holding the titles πατρίκιος, ἀνθύπατος καὶ βέστης and others are reported in various documents and mostly on seals after the mid-XIth c.

The derivative of πρωτοανθύπατος appears in the third quarter of the XIth c. Among the bullae discovered in Bulgaria, only that of Michael Tarchaniotes bears a similar title (see nos. 1572-1573).

None of the titles ἀνθύπατος and πρωτοἀνθύπατος are found in documents after the end of the XIth c. (Oikonomides, *Listes*, p.294).

364. Ἀναστάσιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀνθύπατος (IX c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia. Offered for purchase by the Police. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-29 mm.

Incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-ΣΩ || ΔΘ-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.NAC.. | CIΩR'A' | ΠΑΘ'SA | ΝΘΝΠΑ

+Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῶ δούλῳ [A]ναστασίῳ (πρωτο)[σ]παθα(ρίῳ) (καὶ)
ἀνθυπά(τῳ)

The dating of the seal is generally to the IXth c. The manner in which the text of the seal is arranged attests that the title of ἀνθύπατος was lower than β' πρωτοσπαθάριος at that period. That coincides with the time of the taktikon of Uspenskij (934), when the title ἀνθύπατος was restored in the Empire.

365-367. Βάρδας Δοξ' ἀνθύπατος-πατρίκιος (X-XI c.)

365. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17588. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-26 (20.5) 2 mm. W. 6.20 g. Specimen in a good state of preservation, but incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 324; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 184.

366. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18062. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-25 (20.5) 2 mm. W. 5.32 g. Specimen in a good state of preservation, but incomplete imprint

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 325; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 185.

367. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 16-27 (20.5) 2 mm. Half specimen, incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 326; Jordanov, *F. Names*, nos. 186.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. On either side, a fleuron up to the first arm. Crosslets of four dots in the quarters. Circular inscription : ΤΩΣΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΡΑΡΔ | ΑΑΝΘ. | Π'ΠΑΤ. | Κ'ΤΔΟ | ΞΗ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή(θ)ει] τῷ σῶ δούλ(ῳ) Βάρδα ἀνθ[υ]π(άτῳ) πατ[ρ(ι)]κ(ίῳ) τ(ῷ)
Δόξῃ

368-369. Θεόδωρος ἀνθύπατος-πατρίκιος (X c.)

368. Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1946. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-18 mm. Thickness 2.5 mm. W. 2.79 g. Fragment.

Unpublished.

369. Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1956. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-24 (22) 2.5-3 mm, W. 7.02 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion, which allows a comparison and a restoration of the missing letters.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin. Neither the position of her hands nor a medallion is visible. Sigla:

ΜΡ || ΘΥ. Remains of the circular inscription: +ΘΚΕΡΟΗ

Rev. Inscription of four lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

a. . . . ΟΔ | . . . ΩΑΝ . | . . Τ'ΠΑ . |

b. + . . ΟΔ | ΩΡΩΑΝΘ' | ΑΤ'ΠΑΤ. | Ω

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοή[θει] τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Θε[ο]δώρῳ ἀνθ(υ)[π]άτ(ῳ) πατ[ρ(ι)κί]ῳ

370. Ἰωάννης πατρίκιος-ἀνθύπατος (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Found in the area of the Strategia of Preslav in the summer of 1984. It was at my disposal only for a short period of time, during which I only managed to make a copy of the text, but did not

photograph it. D. 24-26 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns : O-IΩ-O || O- Π-P'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΙΩΠΑΤΡ | ΙΚΙΩΑΝΘ | ΠΑΤΩ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Ἰω(άννη) πατρικίῳ ἀνθ[υ]πάτω

371-373. Κωνσταντῖνος Κρατερὸς ἀνθύπατος-πατρίκιος (1050s-1060s)

371. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-28 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 385.

372. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-32 mm. Overstruck with smaller dies. Visible on the obv. is a bust of the Virgin. On the rev. there is an inscription of several lines, which cannot be deciphered, since it mingled with that of the original strike.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 386.

373. Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Find-spot: Palace center in Preslav, SE, square 982/19, depth. 0.20-0.40 m on 18th June 2007 by Stoicho Bonev. D. 27-27 (26) 4 mm. W. 17.00 g. Incomplete imprint of a damaged surface, which renders the reading especially of the last two lines difficult.

Unpublished.

The three specimens are from the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Konstantopoulos, no 648a; Stavrakos, no. 135.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription:|| T-PH-O'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a) +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΚΩΝΑΝ . . | ΠΑΤ'ΠΡΠ | ΚΡΑΤ. | -P.-

b) +Κ . . . | ΤΩC . . . | ΚΩΝ . . . | ΠΑΤ' . . . | ΚΡΑΤ . | -P.-

c) +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | . ΩΝΑΝΘV | . . Τ'ΠΡΠ | . . ΑΤ . | -P. -

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δού(λῳ) Κων(σταντίνῳ) ἀνθυπάτ(ω)] π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ)
[τ(ῷ)] Κρατ[ε]ρ[ῷ]

b) ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων

374. Θεόφιλος ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων (VI-VII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 31. Find-spot: uncertain. D.25-25 (24 ?) 5 mm, W. 14.98 g. Incomplete imprint. Crack along the channel. The blank was smaller in diameter than the dies.

Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 23.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5) ΘΚΕΒΟΗΘΗ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.. ΕΩΦ | ..ΩΑΠΟ | .ΠΑΡΧ | ΩΝ +

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθη [Θ]εωφ[ίλ]ω ἀπὸ [ἐ]πάρχων

c) ἀπὸ ὑπάτων

Translated literally it means an ex-consul, which essentially is a title. It became a particularly widespread after the dissolution of the consulate in the year 541. Judging by the extant rank lists from the VIIth c., it is a title of a very high rank. It became obsolete in the VIIIth c.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 25-26; Brehier, *Institutions*, 104-105; Courtois, C. Exconsul. Observation sur l'histoire du consul a l'epoque Byzantine.- *Byzantion*, 19, 1949, 37-58; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S.224.

375. Ἀνθίμος ἀπὸ ὑπάτων (VI-VII c.)

Archaeological Museum Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain. D.28-29 (27) 4 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 22.

Parallels: Лихачев, LIX,2; Auction Gorny, Sale 62 (20.04.1993), no. 724, see SBS, 6, p. 119, no. 724.

Obv. Eagle (head r.) with open wings between a cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5)

ΘΚΕΒΟΗΘΗ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΑΝ | ΘΙΜΩΑ | ΠΟΝΠΙΑ | ΤΟΝ +

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθη Ἀνθίμῳ ἀπὸ ὑπάτων +

376. Θεοδόσιος ἀπὸ ὑπάτων (VI-VII c.)

Private collection (I. Yotov from Yambol). Find-spot: uncertain (stronghold near the village of Melnitsa ?). D. 21-23 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5) ΘΚΒΟΗΘΗ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΕΟΔ | ΟCΙΟΑ | .ΟΝΠΙΑ | .ΟΝ +

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθη Θεοδοσίου ἀπ[ὸ] ὑπά[τ]ρον +

377. Πέτρος ἀπὸ ὑπάτων πατρίκιος (VI-VII c.)

Private collection (A. Hadgikostov from Stara Zagora). Find-spot: Nesebar (ancient Mesembria). D. 25-30 (24) 3 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. *Rev.* Inscription of four lines:

+ΘΕΟ | .ΟΚΕΒΟ | ΗΘΕΙΠΕ | ΤΡΩ +

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΑΠΟ | ΒΠΑΤΩ | ΝΠΑΤΡ | ΙΚΙΩ

+ Θεο[τ]όκε βοήθει Πέτρω ἀπὸ ὑπάτων πατρικίω

378. Πέτρος ἀπὸ ὑπάτων πατρίκιος (VI-VII c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 19-21 (?) 3-4 mm.

Ed. Barnea, *Dunarea*, no 4; rez. V.L.-BZ, 1967, S.238.

Parallels: Laurent, *Orghidan*, no.108; Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 455. They are similar to our specimen, but nevertheless coming from different pairs of dies.

Obv. Two monograms and letters inscribed between them express the invocation:

+ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς βοήθη Πέτρω

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΑΠΟ | ΒΠΑΤΩ | .ΠΑΤΡΙ | ΚΙΟΝ

+ ἀπὸ ὑπάτω[ν] πατρικίου

d) βεστάρχης

A eunuch office first introduced by Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969) in connection with the emperor's private wardrobe and treasures. He was responsible for the ceremonial attire, adornments, jewellery, etc (Ebersolt, *Vestiarium*, 87-88; Dölger, *Finanz*, S. 35; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 299-300; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S.226). In the taktikon of the Escorial, where we first find this office, its holder has the title patrikios (Oikonomides, *Listes*, S. 263.15). It occupies the second position in the eunuch hierarchy (Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 292). It remains an office until the mid-XIth c., whereupon it develops into a title conferred upon various dignitaries serving in the province and unrelated with the imperial wardrobe. It was a career start for some of the emperor's close associates (see Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S. 226), while to others it was granted after a longtime service in the province (see nos. 1490-1491, the case of the vestarches Romanos Diogenes).

It was most common among Byzantine dignitaries in 1060s-1080s. Its derivative πρωτοβεστάρχης first appears at the same juncture.

The latest mention of the title vestarches in written sources is from the early XIIth c. (see Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 300, n. 75-76).

379-380. Εὐδοκία βεσταρχίσσα (end XI c.)

379. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). It was offered for purchase at Historical Museum, Shumen.

He purchased them from a person who claimed that the bulla was generally found in the Targovishte district. D. 17-17 (16) 4 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

380. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. I obtained a cast and a photograph through Prof. A. Kuzev from Varna. D. 17-18 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: $\overline{M} || \overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- + - | ΘΕΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΗΧΗΔ' | ΕΥΔΟΚΙΑ | .ΕCΤΑΡ |

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῇ σῇ δού(λῃ) Εὐδοκία [β]εσταρ[χίσσα]

381. Βασίλειος Γλαβᾶς βεστάρχης (third quarter, XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21583. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-22 (19) 4.5 mm, 13.20 g. Complete but poorly-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 70; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 141.

No parallels known.

Obv. Archangel (presumably St. Michael) standing frontally, holding a long scepter (r.

hand) and a globus surmounted by a cross (l. hand). On either side, the sigla: M || X.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΡΑCΙΑΗΩ | ΡΕCΤΑΡΧΗ | ΤΩΓΛΑ | RA

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Βασιλῆω βεστάρχῃ τῷ Γλαβᾶ

382. Βασίλειος Ν., βεστάρχης (third quarter of XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15130. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D.16-19 (11)3.1 mm, W. 5.30 g. The imprint on the obv. is complete, certain parts on the rev. are missing. The letters are muddled and have indistinct outlines. This renders the reading mostly of the patronym uncertain.

Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 133.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘ'ΡΑCΙ | ΛΕΙΩ | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΡΕC | ΤΑΡΧΗ | ΤΟΝΡCΗΩ | Ρ8ΛΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Βασιλείω βεστάρχῃ τὸν ... πουλῶ

383-384. Βραχάμιος Ἀρσακίδης βεστάρχης (third quarter of XI c.)

383. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18526. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-24 (19) 5 mm. W. 16.09 g. Well-centered imprint. The obv. is in a superb state of preservation; effaced letters on the rev.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 70; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.61.

384. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18418. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-24 (19) 4.5 mm. W. 10.90 g. Good imprint, but subsequently cut (presumably during excavations), as a result, the depiction and inscription are heavily damaged.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 71; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.62.

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a long spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a

shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: Θ-Γ-Ε || Ω-Ρ-Γ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΡΑΧΑΜ' | ΡΕCΤΑΡΧ' | ΤΟΝΑΡCΑ | ΚΙΔΗΝ
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Βραχαμ(ίω) βεστάρχ(η) τὸν'Αρσακίδην

385. Γεώργιος Κεδρηνὸς βεστάρχης (third quarter, XI c.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 3680. Find-spot: the land of the village of Rusokastro, Burgas region. D. 14-16(12)3 mm. Incomplete imprint, slightly off-center.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 308.

Parallels: Further three specimens struck in the same boulloterion were found in the region of Srem in modern Serbia (see **Maksimovic et Popovic**, no. 29); in Noviodunum (see **Schultz**, *S. Streufunde aus Isaccea [Noviodunum]. - Pontica*, 11, 1978, p. 102, N. 14 (Mitt Abb); Sudak (see **Stepanova**, *Sudak* 2, no. 7) and in Cherson. The last is unpublished, preserved in the collection of K. D. Smijchkov from Lugansk (Russia). It was included in Mr. Smijchkov's paper presented at the 18th Congress of Byzantine Studies in Moscow, but no publication ensued.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

СФР. | ГІСР. | СТАР | ХОВ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.Ε | .ΡΗΝΟΝ | ΓΕΩΡΓΙ | ΟΝ
Σφρτρ[α]γίς βεστάρχου [Κ]ε[δ]ρηνοῦ Γεωργίου

The owner of the seal affixed to correspondence to Rusokastro, Srem, Noviodunum, Sudak and Chersones was a certain George Kedrenos, vestarches. The dating of the seal is in the third quarter of the XIth c.

386. Γρηγόριος Ἀρτοκληνης (?) βεστάρχης (third quarter, XIth c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 1281. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 15-16 (12) 3.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. The obverse is well-printed, but the reverse is a little off-center, as a result, the last two lines with the patronym are missing. From the initial letters, I would suggest the completion [Γ]ρηγο[ρ]κλ(ηνῶ). The name of the katepano Constantine Artoklines is reported in Skylitzes (see **Skylitzes**, 422.25)

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, IV, № 4; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 65.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas facing, blessing (r. hand) and holding the book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-N-I || K-O-A-A'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙ' | ΡΕCΤΑΡΧ | Τ.ΡΤ. | ΚΑ
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Γρηγορί(ω) βεστάρχ(η) τ[ῶ] 'Α]ρτ[ο]κλ(ηνῶ)

387-394. Θεόδωρος Δοβρομιρός βεστάρχης (third quarter, XIth c.)

387. Archaeological Museum Veliki Preslav, no. 18507. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 17-18 (16) 4 mm. W. 7.32 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 73; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 170.

388. Archaeological Museum Veliki Preslav, no. 20182. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 17-18 (16) 3 mm. W. 7.28 g. Good imprint made on a low-quality blank.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 74; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 171.

389. Archaeological Museum Veliki Preslav, no. 24529. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. Fragment. D. 14-20 mm.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 75; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 172.

390. RHM-Shumen, no. 13507. Purchased from Slavcho Nikolov. Find-spot: Pomorie. D. 19-19.5 (16) 3 mm. W. 7.35 g. Good imprint but slightly off-center.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Анхиало*, № 14; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 173. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 134.

391-392. Private collection. Find-spot: unspecified, presumably Preslav. D. 20-21 and 17-17 mm. Good imprints.

Unpublished.

393. RHM-Shumen, no. 14897. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: unspecified, presumably Preslav. D. 20-21 mm, W. 7.64 g.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 174. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 135.

394. RHM-Shumen, no. 15188. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 184. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-17.1 (15?) 4.1 mm. W. 7.60 g. Holed in the upper part, presumably suspended as a medallion.

Ed. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 136.

The eight bullae were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: an unpublished bulla struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 55. 1. 3005).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding medallion of Christ on her breast. On either side the sigla:

MP || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- + - | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟ | ΡΕCΤΑΡΧ' | ΤΩΔΟΡΡΟ | ΜΙΡ'
+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδώρο βεστάρχ(η) τῷ Δοβρομ(ι)ρ(ῶ)

For more information on Theodore Dobromir, see **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, nos. 155-157

395. Θρακήσιος (Ἰωάννης) βεστάρχης (third quarter of the XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28680. Find-spot: Northeastern Bulgaria. Purchased from the former owner of the bulla from Varna D. 18-20 (15) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, since it was off-centered. Parts of the depiction and inscription remained out of the blank, thus rendering the reading difficult. Beside the variant proposed here, for which I have followed the visible text, below I have suggested other possibilities as well.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription: -Γ-Ε-ΩΡ || ...

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | .ΩCΩΔ8 | .ΩΘΡΑΚΗ | .ΙΩΡΕC | ΤΑΡΧΗ | - ο -
+ [Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τ[ῶ] σῶ δού[λ]ω Θρακη[σ]ίω) βεστάρχη

If the above reading is correct, the proper name of the owner of the seal is Θρακήσιος and should be associated with the theme Θρακησίων. It is possible and acceptable to apply to a patronym, but a homonym identical to a name of a theme is rather unusual, though not impossible.

However, a different reading of the third line could also be proposed: .ΩΘΡΑΚΗ | .ΙΩ [Ι]ω(άννη) Θρακη[σ]ίω) βεστάρχη. In this case we are tempted by the idea of identifying the owner of the seal with the chronicler John Skylitzes, who is called Ἰωάννης Θρακησίων in the preface of George Kedrenos' compilation.

396-397. Ἰωάννης βεστάρχης (third quarter of the XI c.)

396. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24827. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. D. 12-12 (?) 3 mm. W. 6. 25. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 13.

397. RHM-Yambol, no. II 5497. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voivoda. D. 16-17 (over 14) 3 mm. W. 3. 80. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 14.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription of two columns: Θ-Δ-Η || Μ-Τ'
Rev. Inscription of four lines:
+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ἸΩΡΕC | ΤΑΡΧ'
+[Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Ἰω(άννη) βεστάρχη]

398. Ἰωάννης Γούλας βεστάρχης, last quarter XIth c.

Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 2135. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-17.5 (16) 3 mm, W. 5.47 g. Well-centered and complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
+ ΓΡΑ | ΦΑCΦΡΑ | ΓΙΖΩΚΑΙ | ΛΟΓ8C | - ο -
Rev. Inscription of four lines:
ο ἸΩ ο | ΡΕCΤΑΡΧ' | ΤΟΝΓΟΝ | ο ΛΑ ο
+ Γραφὰς σφρ(α)γίζω καὶ λόγους Ἰωάννου βεστάρχη) τοῦ Γούλα

This family name is not attested in narrative sources.

The name of a certain Γούλης, a Capadocian, an official of Emperor Alexios I Komnenos who participated in a number of military actions on the Balkans between 1078-1082 is mentioned in the Alexiade of Anna Komnene. Bearing in mind Anna's manner, this is probably his family name, see *Alexiade*, I.33.9; II.21.22; II.97.21.

Clearly, however, it refers to a different family name Γούλας. Two other representatives of this family are known by their seals:

Theophilos as a private person, second half of the XI c., according to a seal from DO.58. 106. 2640.

Obv. Bust of St. George facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand)
Rev. + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΘΕΟΦΙΑ' | ΤΩΓ8 | ΛΑ

Theodore as a private person, last quarter of the XI c., according to a seal from Zacos collection.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand)
Rev. ∴ | ΟΜΟΝΥ | ΜΟΝCΟΝ | Γ8ΛΑΟCΜΑΡ | ΤΟΙCΚΕ | ΠΟΙC
See **Wassiliou, A.-K.** Einige bisher unbekannte Namen auf Byzantinischen Siegeln.-*SBS*, 9, 2006, 72.5.1; 73.5.2.

John Goulas from our seal of similar dating is their contemporary. We cannot conclude with certainty about their relations: members of the same family, brothers or a third possibility.

399. Κωνσταντῖνος βεστάρχης (third quarter, XIth c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14615. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, dis. Elkhovo. D. 17-22.5 (14.5) 4 mm. W. 8.34 g. Good imprint and specimen in a good state of preservation. Overstruck.
Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 34; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 137.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of a military saint (perhaps St. Theodore) holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). No visible inscription.
Rev. Inscription of four lines:
+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8 | ΛΩΚΩΝΡΕ | CΤΑΡΧΗ
+[Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κων(σταντίνῳ) βεστάρχη]

399A. Κωνσταντῖνος Ἰκανάτος βεστάρχης (third quarter of the XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Blesna, district of Haskovo. D. 19-21 (18) mm, W. 5.4 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 243a.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Eustratios facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-Ε-Υ || .-Τ-Ρ-Α-Τ-Ι-Ο : Ὁ ἅγιος Εὐ[σ]τράτιος(ς).
Rev. Inscription of six lines:
ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΚΩΝΡΕ | CΤΑΡΧΗ | ΤΩΙΚΑ | ΝΑ.
Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κων(σταντίνῳ) βεστάρχη τῷ Ἰκανά[τῳ]

400-401. Λέων Νικερίτης βεστάρχης (third quarter, XI c.)

400. RHM-Shumen, no. 13539. Former collection of Vassil Dimitrov from Shumen. Found on the land of the village of Liuliakovo, Burgas region, which is located at the exit of the Veselinov pass. D. 19-23 (18) 3.1 mm. W. 9.31 g. Good imprint and a bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 523. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 138.

401. RHM-Shumen, no. 15115. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 111. Find-spot: stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, disc. of Elkhovo. D. 20-21(18) mm. W. 7. 44 g. Good imprints.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 523a. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 139.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, no. 99; DO. 58. 106. 5596 (unpublished). Struck with the same pair of dies as our specimen.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

1.+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ . | ΛΕONT. | - o -

2.+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΛΕONTI | - o -

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

1.- o - | . ΕCTAP | . HTΩNI | ΚΕΡΙTH | - o -

2.- o - | ΡΕCTAP | ΧΗΤΩNI | ΚΕΡΙTH | - o -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω Λέοντι βεστάρχη τῷ Νικερίτῃ

Μιχαήλ Στυπείωτης μάγιστρος καὶ βεστάρχης (third quarter, XI c.) see no. 456

402. Μουχουμέτ βεστάρχης (third quarter, XIth c.)

Private collection (Zheliakzo Dimov, Burgas). Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa. D. 16-16 (14 ?) ? mm. Perhaps a weak imprint, but all the letters from the Greek text printed. Specimen in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 42; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 515.

Parallels: unpublished specimen in Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 55. 1. 4570).

Obv. Inscription in Arabic script.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΡΕC | ΤΑΡΧΙ | Μ8Χ8 | ΜΕΤ

403. Παῦλος Ἀρμενοπούλος βεστάρχης (third quarter, XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-23 mm. Incomplete imprint, poorly centered in the boulloterion, which renders the reading difficult.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 60.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

..... | ..CΩΔ.. | ..ΡΛΩΡΕ | ..ΑΡΧΗ

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

. ΩΑΡ. | ΝΩΠΩΛ | * ΛΩ *

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ] σῷ δ[ούλ(ω) Πα]βλω βε[στ]άρχῃ [τ]ῷ

Ἀρ[μ(ε)]νωπώλῳ

404A. Ὑπάτιος Μαγεντηνός βεστάρχης (third quarter of the XI c.)

Private collection. (V. Panteleev, Varna). D. 15-20 (15) 2.5 mm. W. 4.00 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 404.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin standing frontally, holding Christ in her l. arm.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΒΙΑΤΙΩ | ΡΕCTΑΡΧ' | ΤΩΜΑΓΕ | ΝΤΙΝΟ

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Ὑπατίῳ βεστάρχη(ν) τῷ Μαγεντίνο

e) βέστης

An office whose nature connects it with the emperor's private treasury. It first appeared under Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969). It was occupied both by eunuchs and ordinary nobles (see **Ebersolt**, *Vestiarium*, 87-88; **Dölger**, *Finanz.*, S.35; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 294). In the taktikon of the Escorial, it is accompanied by the titles magistros, patrikios and praprositos (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 263.13,16,21). In the XIth c. and especially in its second half, it became a title held by many provincial governors. Its derivative is πρωτοβέστης. It disappears from written sources in the early XIIth c.

404-405. Βάρδας Μερκολίτης βέστης (1060s)

404. Private collection (Nikolai Nikolov from Razgrad. Offered for purchase at the Historical Museum, Shumen. Purchased from a person who claimed that the bulla was generally found in the Targovishte district. D.17-17 (15) 2.5 mm. Complete and a well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 465.

405. RHM-Shumen, no.15496. Former collection of V. Stankov from Batak, no. 220. Find-spot: fortress near the village of Melnitsa, disc. of Elkhovo. D.12-14 (?) 3 mm. W. 3.22 g. Incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

Both specimens were struck in a same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription : Θ-Δ-Η ||

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑΡΔΑ | ΡΕCTHΝ | ΤΟΝΜΕΡ | ΚΩΛΗΤ

. | | ΡΕCTH . | ΤΟΝΜΕΡ | ΚΩΛΗΤ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Βάρδα βέστην τὸν Μερκωλήτ(ην)

406. Θεόδωρος Καζάνης βέστης (XI c. third quarter)

Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1950. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elkhovo. D. 16-17 (15-16?) 4 mm. W. 6.50 g. Well-centered and complete imprint. The upper part of the saint's head on the obverse remained outside the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 23; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 245.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore standing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Remains of the vertical inscription: Θ-... || -Δ-Ω-P.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΘΕΟΔΩΡΩ | ΡΕCΤΙΤ. | ΚΑΖΑΝΗ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδώρῳ βέστι τ[ῶ] Καζάνη

407. Ἰωάννης Ἀαρὼν βέστης (1060s-1070s)

RHM-Shumen, no. 13506. Purchased from Slavcho Nikolov from Shumen. Found in Pomorie. D. 25-25 (19) 4.1 mm. W. 13.50 g. A good imprint but not distinct enough. A well-preserved bulla.

Ed. **Jordanov, I.** Le molybdo-bulle du vestes Jean Aaron.- *Paleobulgarica*, 1, 1990, 106-110; **Йорданов**, Анхило, № 4; **Йорданов**, *Корпус*, с. 192; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 1; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 140.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George facing, represented as a warrior, holding (r. hand) a spear on shoulder, and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-Γ-Ε-Ω-P || Γ-Ι-Ο-С : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Γεώργιος

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΙΩΑΝΝΗ | ΡΕCΤ'ΤΩ | ΑΑΡΩ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἰωάννη βέστ(η) τῶ Ἀαρῶ(ν)

408. Ἰωάννης Βατάτζης βέστης (third quarter of XI c.)

Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov from Elkhovo). Presumably found in the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa. D. 24-24(?)3 mm. Incomplete imprint, especially the last two lines of the inscription.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 31; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 94.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist facing, blessing (r. hand) and holding the book (l. hand). Vertical inscription of two columns: Θ-ΙΩ-Ο || Π-Δ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΙΩΡΕC T' | ΤΟΝ.ΑΤΑ | ..ΗΝ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἰω(άννην) βέστ(ην) τὸν [Β]ατά[τ]ζην

409. Μιχαήλ Περδίκης βέστης (third quarter, XI c.)

RHM-Pernik, no. 1102 Found in the course of excavations in the fortress near the town in 196, square V/134, depth 0.60 m. D. 16-17.5 (15) 4 mm. Successful imprint and a bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Юркова**, Pernik, II, с. 120, табл. II.5; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 566; **Йорданов**, Перник, № 13.

Parallels: Three unpublished bullae struck with the same pair of dies are preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 55.1.3856, 55.1.3857 and 58. 106. 1489).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her chest. Sigla: \overline{M} || \overline{OV} .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+| ΔΕCΠΟΙ | ΝΑCΚΕΠ | ΜΙΡΕCΤΙ | ΤΩΠΕΡ | ΔΙΚΗ

+Δέσποινα σκέπ(οις) Μιχ(αήλ) βέστι τῶ Περδίκῃ

409A. Νικήτας Κίνναμος βέστης (second half, XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15-17 (13) 3.5-5 mm. W. 5.40 g. Once a good and complete imprint. Now a portion is chipped or melted, which renders the reading insecure.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 312.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus cruciger (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΦΡΑΓ | ..ΚΗΤΑ | ..CΤ'Τ8 | .ΙΝΑΜ'

[Σ]φρραγ(ίς) [Νι]κήτα [βέ]στ(η) τοῦ [Κ]ινάμ(ου)

410. Πολύευκτος βέστης (last quarter, XIth c.)

Private collection. Offered for purchase at the Historical Museum in Shumen where I documented it. The information is that it originates from the stronghold near the village of Dobri dol, Plovdiv region. It is not unlikely however that it was found in Silistra. D. 19-20.5 (18) 4 mm. Well-centered but indistinct imprint.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 678, struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin, holding Christ (l. arm). No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΠΟΛΥ | ΕΥΚΤΟΝ | ΡΕCΤΗΝ | ΠΑΡΘΕΝΕ | CΚΕΠΟΙC

+Πολύευκτον βέστην, Πάρθενε, σκέποις

For more information on the owner of the seal, see no. 507, where his whole career is presented.

η) γαμβρός

411. Βάρδας γαμβρός τοῦ δουκὸς Παῦλου βεστάρχης (third quarter, XIth c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 59. Found in the course of excavations of the Southern Fortress Wall of Dristra on 30th April 1986. D. 23-23 (21) 4 mm. Once an excellent imprint. Now one side completely corroded. All that renders the reading uncertain.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘ..RAP | ΔΑ...AM | R...8Δ' | -.OC-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

-✕- | ΚΥΡΟΝ | ΠΑΥΛΟΝ | ΚΑΙΡΕC | ΤΑΡΧΗ | -✕-

Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ[ει] Βάρδα [τῶ γ]αμβ[ρῶ τ]οῦ δουκὸς κυροῦ Παῦλου καὶ

βεστάρχη

I do not know of a seal with a similar text. It applies to a certain Bardas son-in-law (gambros) of Paul, doux and vestarches. Bardas identifies himself precisely through his father-in-law, since both a title and an office are lacking on his seal.

Who was this Paul, doux and vestarches? That is hard to determine. Did he have something in common with Paul Armenopoulos (see no. 403), who was also doux and vestarches?

fa) γαμβρός καὶ δεσπότης

412. Ἀλέξιος Κομνηνὸς Παλαιολόγος δεσπότης καὶ γαμβρός (ca. 1200–1203)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14659. It was offered for purchase by a treasure-hunter who found it in the stronghold near Dobri dol, Plovdiv region. D. 22-42 (37) 3.5 mm. Half of a specimen that once had an excellent imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 541

No parallels known.

The other three specimens, struck in a different boulloterion or with a different pair of dies, are stored in the collections of the Hermitage (M-8212), Fogg A.M. (no. 1699) and DO (58. 106. 3572). See **Laurent**, V., A propos d'un sceau inedit du despote Alexios (+1203).- *Byzantion*, 8, 1933, 125-130; **Лихачев**, *Моливдовулы*, Таб. LXVI.13; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 2752; **Oikonomides**, *Dated Seals*, no. 130.

Obv. Inscription of seven lines.

....ΞΙΘ |ΓCMA |ΙΟΛΟΓ8 |ΟΦV |CΠO |HNA | ..AN
[+Ἀλεξίου [σφρά]γισμα [Παλα]ιολόγου [Κομνην]οφυ[οῦς δε]σπότης τῆ]ν
α[ξί]αν

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

ΓΑΜ...|ΚΡΑΤ8...| ΓΗCΠΑ...| ΜΑΙΔΟ...| ΤΟΠΑΙ...| ΛΙC...| -:..... -
γαμ[βροῦ] κρατοῦ[ντος] γῆς πά[σης] Ῥω[μαί]δο[ς] εἰς πρω[τό]παι[δα]
βασί[λις]σαν Εἰρήνην]

fb) γάμβρος καὶ καῖσαρ

413-414. Ἰωάννης Καντακουζηνὸς γάμβρος καὶ καῖσαρ (1185-1186)

413. Private collection. Found by a treasure-hunter with a metal detector in the stronghold near Dobri dol. D. 34-35 (33?) 2.5 mm. It was once a good imprint but now the bulla is in a bad condition. Open along the line of the channel and bent possibly due to a blow during the "excavation".

Ed. **Jordanov**, Dobri dol, no. 10; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 263.

No exact parallels.

414. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 42-45 (34) 3 mm. Large blank; well-centered but nevertheless incomplete imprint due to slipping of the blank in the boulloterion.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 264.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no 2739; **Oikonomides**, *Dated*, no 123. Struck in a different boulloterion.

Obv. St. Theodore standing, holding a spear (r. hand) and resting his l. hand on a shield set

on the ground. On either side, a vertical inscription: O-ΑΓ-O-C || Θ-Ε-O-ΔΩ-ΡΟ-C
Rev. Inscription of seven lines.

a) ΓΑΜΡΟΝ | ΚΡΑΤΟΝΤΟC | ΔΕCΠΟΤΗΝΙΩ | ΑΝΝΗΝΚΑΝΤΑΚ8 |
ΖΗΝΚΑΙCΑ | ΡΑΜΑΡΤVС | CΚΕΠΟΙC

b) . . ΜΡΟΝ | . ΡΑΤ8ΝΤΟC | . ΕCΠΟΤΗΝΙ | .ΑΝΝΗΝΚΑΝ | ΤΑΚ8ΖΗΝΟΝ
| ΚΑΙCΑΡΑΜΑΡ | .VCCΚΕ | ΠΟΙC

Γαμβρόν κρατοῦντος δεσπότην Ἰωάννην Καντακουζηνὸν καῖσαρ Μάρτυς
σκέποις

g) δεσπότης

414A. Ἰσαάκιος Κομνηνὸς δεσπότης (1081-1102.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-28 (28 ?) 4 mm, W. 11.00 g. Half of what was once an excellent imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 340A.

Parallels: **Mordtmann**, *Komnenon*, no. 9; **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 425; **Konstantopulos**, no. 289; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, nos. 2702a-c; **Stavrakos**, 126; **Henning-Muller**, *Bizans*, no. 9.

Obv. Part of the figure of St. Theodore standing frontally, his l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription:|| Θ-Ε-ΟΔΩ-ΡΟ-C : [Ἵ]ος Θεόδωρος.

Rev. Vertical inscription of six lines:

- ο - |+ΚΕΡΟ. |ΘΕΙΤΩ...| ΔΟΝΛΩΙ...| ΚΙΩΙΩΔΕC...|ΤΩΚΟ...| - Ν. -
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θει τῷ [σῶ] δούλῳ Ἰ[σαα]κίῳ δεσ[πότη] τῷ Κο[μνη]ν[ῶ]

415. Κωνσταντῖνος Δούκας Κομνηνὸς Παλαιολόγος δεσπότης (XIII-XIV c.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 4783. Find-spot: the land of the village of Sedlarevo, Sliven region, in the Sheitansko Kale locality. D. 31.5-33(30)4 mm. Good imprint, despite some letters which were left out of the blank. A bulla in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, И. - Д. **Драганов**, Новооткрит моливдовул на деспот Константин Дука Палеолог.- *ИМЮБ*, XIII, 1990, 47-52; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 550.

Parallels: **Konstantopulos**, no. 622; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 2758 a-c; **Лихачев**, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LXXXI.6. They were struck with two different pairs of dies. Ours is from the same pair as the Zacos seal no. 2758a.

Obv. Constantine, nimbate, beardless, standing facing; wears skiadion (decorated with cross on its front part), divitision and chlamys of lozenge pattern; r. holds scepter with jewelled top. In field l. and r. vertical inscriptions:

+ | ΚΩ | ΝϞΑ | ΝΤΙ | ΝΟC | ΔΕCΠ | ΟΤΙC -
ΠΟΡ | ΦVΡΟΓ | ΕΝΝΗΤ | ΟCΔ8ΚΑ | CΚΟΜΝΗ | ΝΟCΟΠΑ | ΛΑΙΟΛ | ΟΓΟ |
+ Κωνσταντῖνος δεσπότης πορφυρογέννητος Δούκας Κομνηνὸς
Παλαιολόγο[ς]

Rev. Inscription of eight lines:

+ CΦΡΑΓΙC | ΟΧCΚΑΙΦVΛΑ | ΚΤΗΡΚΑΙCΚΕΠΗΑΝ | .ΚΤΟΠΑΙΔΟCΔΕCΠ |
.Τ8ΚΩΝϞΑΝΤΙΝ8 | ΚΑΙΠΟΡΦVΡΑΝΘ8 | .ΔΟ.ΚΑΠΑΛΑΙ | ..ΟΓΟΝ
+ Σφραγίς ὁ Χ(ριστὸς) καὶ φυλακτὴρ καὶ σκέπη ἀν[α]κτόπαιδος δεσπ[ό]του

416-418. Στέφανος Κωντοστέφανος δεσπότης (first half, XII c.)

416. Historical Museum, Nova Zagora, no. 1332. Find-spot: the town, eastern part. D. 29-30 (?) 3 mm. In a poor state of preservation, holed in center, presumably used as a weight. Many of the letters are obliterated or did not print.

Ed. Йорданов, Nova Zagora, № 3; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 360.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ | KONTOT | ΦΕΦΑΝ. | ΑΙΦΕΦΑ. | ΔΕΣΠΟ. |
+ Κοντοστέφαν[ου] καὶ Στεφά[νου] δεσπό[του]

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΑΙΚΥΡΟ. | ΕΡΓΩΝΚΑΙ | ΦΡΑΓΙΣΡ8Λ | .ΝΜΑΤΩ
[κ]αὶ κύρο[ς] ἔργων καὶ [σ]φραγίς βουλ[ε]ύματω(ν)

417. Private collection (Stefan Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 29-30 (28?) 4 mm. W. 24.65 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Билик, Фамилни имена, № 17; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 361.

Parallels: Oikonomides, *Dated*, no 114.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ KONTOT | ΦΕΦΑΝ. | ΝΟΝΚΑΙΦΕ | ΦΑΝ8ΔΕΣ | ΠΟΤΟΝ
+ Κοντοστέφανου καὶ Στεφάνου δεσπότου

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΚΑΙΚΥ | ΡΟΕΡΓΩΝ | ΚΑΙΣΦΡΑΓΙΣ | ΡΟΝΛΕΝΜΑ | ΤΩΝ
καὶ κύρος ἔργων καὶ σφραγίς βουλεύματων

h) δισύπατος

There are certain nuances in the interpretation of this title:

N. Oikonomides favors the term bis consul, i.e. one who has received the insignia of a consul for the second time (δισύπατος) (Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 295), while W. Seibt assumes that it refers to consul iterum (Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S. 238).

Its origin is connected with that of ὑπάτος. It appears in the written sources in the IXth c. and disappears in the Xth in connection with the changes in the title ὑπάτος. It occupies approximately a mediate position between the rather low-ranking ὑπάτος and the ἀνθύπατος still high at that time.

It reappears in written sources and sphragistic monuments in the mid- XIth c. in connection with the restoration of the title ὑπάτος. This time however the hierarchical order is the following: πρωτοσπαθάριος, ὑπάτος, δισύπατος, πατρίκιος and ἀνθύπατος (see Bury, *System*, p. 27; Guiland, *Recherches*, II, 79-88; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S. 238).

It is last mentioned in documentary sources from the late XIth and the early XIIth centuries (Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 295, n. 45).

419. Συμεὼν δισύπατος (XI c.)

Private collection (S. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: the stronghold between the villages Razboina and Prosenik, disc. of Burgas. D. 14-17 (?) 2. 5 mm. W. 5. 307 g. Weak imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Remains of a vertical inscription at r.: Θ-Γ-Ε || ...

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | CVMΕ.. | ΔVC. | ΠΑΤ.
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Συμε[ὼν] δυσ[υ]πάτ[ω]

420-421. Συμεὼν Καραντηνός δισύπατος (XI c.)

420. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24816. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. D. 18-20 (17) 2 mm. W. 5.53 g. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla, despite some indistinct letters.

Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no 22; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 280.

421. Private collection (Dinko Tanchev from Stara Zagora). Probably close in origin with the previous one. D. 17-20 (17) 3.5 mm. W. 6.00 g. Chipped specimen of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 281.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Symeon turned three quarters l. with a nimbus and a himation, holding Christ at r. In the field, to the l. of Christ, the sigla: IC-XC. Remains of a vertical inscription at r.: Θ-CV-...

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | CVMΕΩΝΔΙ | CVΠΑΤ'ΤΩ | ΚΑΡΑΝ | ΤΗΝ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Συμεὼν δισυπάτ(ω) τῷ Καραντην(ῳ)

ia) θυγατρὸς

422-424. Ἄννα (Κομνηνὴ) θυγάτηρ τοῦ Ἰσαακίου ἀδελφοῦ Ἰωάννου (?-1143)

422. Place of preservation: unknown. This seal is a very good illustration of the processes in our country. It was reported by A. Peikov and Pl. Pavlov in the abstract sent for the 6th International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography held in Veliki Preslav in September 1998. Unfortunately, they did not take part in the symposium, and their abstract remained its only publication. According to the authors, the bulla generally originates from the region of Nova and Stara Zagora. After the closing of the symposium, in a personal meeting with Pl. Pavlov, he showed me a rather poor-quality photo of this seal. When I visited Vienna a year later, I came across the recently published auction Münz Zentrum no. 97, held from January 6-8, 1999. There, under no. 790, I found the same seal. This is one surprisingly fast transfer of the seal from Bulgaria to Köln! Incomplete imprint. D. 30-31 mm. W. 24.10 g.

Ed. Pavlov, P.- Peikov, A. Two unknown Byzantine Seals from Northern Thrace from 12th Century.- VIth International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography, V. Preslav (resume), p. 33; Auction Münz Zentrum N 97, 06-08. 01. 1999, N 790; Йорданов, Комнини-Ангели, 38-39, № 12; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 319.

423. RHM-Shumen, no. 15074. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 70. Find-spot: area of Podkova, Kardzhali region. D. 16-25 (22) 3 mm. W. 6.14 g. Fragment smaller than a half. Unpublished.

424. Historical Museum Nesebar, no. 2150. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D. 25-28 (24) 3 mm. W. 11. 37 g. Well-centered and complete imprint but damaged. Cracked and folded along the channel. Unpublished.
The three specimens were struck in a same bulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

- a. - + - | ANNH C | ΘVΓATPOC | CΦPAΓICI | CAAKIOV
b. - . - | ANNH . | . VΓAT . . . |
c. - + - | ANNH C | ΘVΓATPOC | CΦPAΓICI | CAAK . . .

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- a. AΔEΛ | . . . AKTOC | . . . EPONC | . . ANN8
b. . ΔEΛ | . . . AKTO . | OV . |
c. AΔEΛ | ΦANAKTOC | EVCEPONC | IOANN8
+ Ἄννης θυγατρὸς σφραγὶς Ἰσαακίου
ἀδελφάνακτος εὐσεβοῦς Ἰωάννου

ib. ἰλοῦστριος

The higes title of senators in the Late Roman Empire. The term remained in use in the VII c.

See *OBD*. 986-987

Ματθαῖος ἰλοῦστριος (VI-VII c.) see no. 2300

Ἰωάννης Πλαγιώτης ἰλλοῦστριος first half of the VII c. see no. 3149.

j) κανδιδᾶτος

A corps of the imperial guards established in the IIIrd c. Initially it consisted of forty titulars, but already in the VIIIth-IXth centuries its candidates were both guards and people who had nothing to do with the guards, i.e. it developed from an effective position into a honorific title (*Oikonomides*, *Listes*, 155, 296-298).

425. Νικήτας ὑπάτος, β' κανδιδᾶτος (VIII-IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 13511. Find-spot: Pomorie (Anchialos). D. 29-30 (22) 6 mm. W. 28.99 g. Good and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Анхиало, II.1; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 141.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters : TΩ-Δ8 || ΛΩ-C8.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

NIKHT | AVPIATΩ | .ACIAI. | .KANAI | ΔATΩ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ δούλῳ σου Νικήτᾳ ὑπάτῳ [β]ασιλι[κῶ] κανδιδᾶτῳ

The dating of the seal, according to its shape, iconography, paleography of some letters and mostly the τῷ δούλῳ σου inscribed in the four fields, is to the last quarter of the VIIIth c. (see Шандровская, Памятники, 246-253). Hence, the following question poses itself: is imperial kandidatos an effective position or another honorific title? In the late VIIIth c., it could be an effective position.

ja) β' κανδιδᾶτος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν

For its meaning, see πρωτοσπαθᾶριοι ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν.

426-427. Λέων β' κανδιδᾶτος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (end of the IX c.)

426. Archaeological Museum Sofia, photo slip № 72-2069; 2070. Find-spot: Pliska, 1972 (presumably from the sounding excavations of Prof. Stancho Vaklinov). D. 25-26 mm. Line 1 and part of line 2 on the rev. did not print.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, 1899-1999, № 12.

427. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: the seacoast near Sozopol. D. 12.5-26 (20) 2.5 mm. Once a good imprint; now a half preserved.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same bulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:

+ KEROIOHTOC OΔONΛO

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- a. + ... | NT..KA | NTI.ATO | EPITON | VKIAK
b. | A | TO | ON | K
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη το σο δ[ούλο] [Λέο]ντι [β']καντι[τ]άτο ἐπὶ τον (οἰ)κ(ε)ιακ(ῶν)

The commentary on the data of these two lead seals draws our attention on the following ascertainments:

1. the unusual writing of the invocation and text on the reverse;
2. the discovery of the two bullae in the Bulgarian capital Pliska and Sozopol.

Their dating is generally in the last quarter of the IXth c.; as for Pliska, the presence of Byzantine lead seals there is limited to the period 870-893 and is in connection with the activity of the chancellery of the Bulgarian archbishop (see Йорданов, Плиска, с.296). The duplication of the correspondence of Λέων β' κανδιδᾶτος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν to the Byzantine town of Sozopolis and the Bulgarian capital Pliska arouses our interest. The Leo in question was perhaps an acquaintance or a relative of people resident in Sozopolis and Pliska, for example, the bishop of Sozopolis and the Bulgarian archbishop or some of his close associates. We could also assume that this Λέων β' κανδιδᾶτος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν was charged with a certain mission connected with Bulgaria and on his way he might have sought the help of the authorities in Sozopolis.

κ) κουροπαλάτης

Higher palace title. It can be treated as an office only in the IXth c., when the kouropalates was a chief of the whole palace guard. We find further evidence of his significant role in the life of the Empire in this period in a text of the taktikon of Philotheos (899), according to which the kouropalates is the one who confers the titles on the high-ranking dignitaries. According to N. Oikonomides, it is probably a reminiscence from the time of Michael III (842-867), when kouropalates was the Emperor's uncle Bardas, who actually governed the Empire (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 97, n. 50) and whose seal has been presented below.

Until the end of the Xth c., it is a title reserved only for the princes and members of the imperial family. The rulers of Georgia were also granted this title. In all taktikons including the Escorial, it occupies the third place in the rank lists after the caesar and the nobelissimos (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, Ph. 137.2; B 245.1; S 263.6, p. 292).

The kouropalates had a special dress: a purple divitision and a chlamys ornamented with gold and fastened with a richly decorated fibula. He was granted the symbol of his dignity, the belt, by the emperor himself in the Blachernai church (*Cer.*, II, 37-39.54; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 97.7-11; **Guilland**, R. Le Curopalate.- *Byzantina*, 2, 1970, 193-194).

In the XIth c., and especially in its second half, it became a title, one of the highest indeed, but already granted to persons not belonging to the imperial family. It became very common among the Byzantine dignitaries after 1070s-1080s, when its derivative, protokouropalates, was also introduced (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 293, n. 32).

It retained its meaning of a title of not so high rank in the XIIth c. as well (of fourth rank, according to Kazhdan, see **Каждан**, *Социальный состав*, c. 113.) and survived until the XIVth c., when in Pseudo-Codinos it was placed in the fifteenth position.

Βάρδας κουροπαλάτης καὶ δομέστικος (859-862), on him, see the part about the army, no.966.

428. Ἀλέξιος Ν., κουροπαλάτης (late XI c.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 5876. Find-spot: the land of the village of Stroino, 1992. D. 19-20 mm. Whole specimen, but incomplete imprint and poor state of preservation, which renders the reading of the patronym difficult.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Куропалати, № 2.

No parallels known.

Obv. Military saint standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΘΚ... | .ΛΞΙΟ | Κ8ΡΟΠ. | ΛΑΤΗΤ. | ΡΑΠ.. | ΜΟΝ.

Θ(εοτό)κ[ε β(οή)ϑ(ει) Ἀ]λεξίο κουροπ[α]λάτη τ[ῶ] Ραπ ..μου.

The reading of the patronym is insecure, for which reason we do not comment on the data of the seal.

429-430. Ἀργυρός Καρατζᾶς κουροπαλάτης (XI c., before 1092).

429. Private collection. Found in the stronghold near Dobri dol. D. 24-25 mm. Several letters in the second and third lines are obliterated, as a result, its reading is uncertain.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Dobri dol, no.5; **Йорданов**, Куропалати, № 4; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no.283.

430. RHM-Shumen, no. 14850. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Originates from the land of the village of Popovitsa, Plovdiv region? D.18-20 (18?).3 mm. W. 5.74 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Куропалати, № 5; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no.284.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallel specimen: At the auction Italo vecchi, on Sept. 4, 1998, another specimen was presented (no. 1319) struck in the same boulloterion. It also has non-imprinted areas, making its reading likewise difficult.

Obv. Bust of Saint Nicholas (?) blessing (r. hand) and holding book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines.

a) TONCON | .ΙΚΕΤΗ... | ..ΦΥΛΑ... | Κ8ΡΟΠΑΛΑΤ' | ΑΡΓΥΡΟΤ | ΚΑΡΑΤΑ

b) ... | .ΙΚΕΤΗΝ.. | ..ΥΛΑΤΩΝΜ. | Κ8ΡΟΠΑΛΑΤ' | ΑΡΓΥΡΟΤ | ΚΑΡΑΤ.

Τὸν σὸν [ο]ϊκετῇ[ν θύτα Θεο]ῦ φύλατων.. κουροπαλάτ(η) Ἀργυρο(ν) τ(ὸν) Καρατζ(ᾶν)

431. Βασιλάκιος Ἀρβαντίος κουροπαλάτης (late XIc.)

Private collection. A plaster cast of the same was sent to me by Ivan Karajotov from Burgas. It is reported that the bulla is in the possession of a collector from Burgas (Kliment Atanasov) and its find-spot is Pomorie. Dimensions of the blank 28-28 mm, of the seal 25 mm. Incomplete imprint because it was poorly centered in the boulloterion and rather indistinct, in addition. This renders the overall reading difficult.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Куропалати, № 7; **Jordanov**, *F.Names*, no. 58.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Inscription in two columns: Α-ΓΙ-Ο-С || ΓΕ-Ω-Γ...

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

...ΠΟΙ... | ΝΕΚ8ΡΟΠΑΛΤ | ΤΟΝΑΡΡΑΝΤ. | ΝΟΝΡΑCΙΛΑΚ | .ΟΝΑΝΑ.

[Σκέ]ποι[ς ἄγ]νε κουροπαλάτ(ην) τὸν Ἀρβαντ[η]νὸν Βασιλάκ[ι]ον ἄναξ.

The first one or two lines remained outside the blank. In his review W. Seibt (*BZ*, 101, S.820) restores the beginning: Θράκης σκέποις δοῦκα με κουροπαλάτην. We can only guess whether he knows of another better specimen as to be so certain.

432. Βασίλειος Γεμιδινός (?) κουροπαλάτης (end of the XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15140. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 136. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 20-22 (17) 4 mm. W. 5.34 g. Complete and distinct imprint. Some peripheral letters did not print.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 143

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with medallion on her chest. Sigla: $\overline{M} || \overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑCΙΑΕΙΟ | ΚΟΡΟΠΑΛ'Τ'ΓΕΜΙΔΙ | -ΝΟ-
+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Βασιλείο κο(υ)ροπαλ(άτη) τ(ῶ) Γεμιδινό

The letters of the last line recording the patronym are not very distinct which renders the reading difficult. Such a name is unknown.

433. Γεώργιος Δεκανός κουροπαλάτης (XI-XII c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 27787. Found on the sea coast in the town of Sozopol. D. 20-21 (20?) 3 mm. A well-centered and successful imprint, but some parts of the depiction and text are out of the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 161.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), his l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: || ΓΕ-ΩΡ-ΓΙ-Ο'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

СΦΡΑΓ | ΓΕΩΡΟΓΙΩ | Κ8ΡΟΠΑΛΑ. | ΗΤ8ΔΕΚΑ.
Σφραγ(ίς) Γεωρογίω κουροπαλά[τ]η τοῦ Δεκα[ν]οῦ

434. Δημήτριος Ν., κουροπαλάτης (late XI c.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 5156. Formerly in the Serbezov Brothers Collection, Nova Zagora. Find-spot: the land of the village of Polski Gradets. Gradishteto locality, Nova Zagora region. D. 18-19 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. The reading of both the homonym and patronym are problematic.

Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 11.

No parallels known.

Obv. A military saint, standing, holding a spear (r. hand) and l. hand on shield set on the ground.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΔΗΜΙΤΡΙ | Κ8ΡΟΠΑΛΑ | ΤΗΤΩΠ. | ..ΝΙΩ
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Δημητρί(ω) κουροπαλάτη τῶ Π. . . νίω

435-436. Κοστίκιος κουροπαλάτης (XI-XII c.)

435. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 53. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-21 (20?) 3 mm. W. 8.02 g. Incomplete imprint specimen in a poor state of preservation. Holed in the lower end.

Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 12; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 364.

436. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Offered for purchase by N. Georgiev from Shumen. According to his information, it was found in northeastern Bulgaria. It may well be that its find-spot was Silistra or Preslav. D. 17-19 (?) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint specimen in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 13; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 365.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the collection of the Hermitage (M-5577), see Schlumberger, *Sceaux inédits*, no. 181.

Obv. Two military saints (St. George and St. Theodore) standing frontally. The saint at r. holds his r. hand in front of his chest and a sword in l. hand. The saint at l. holds a long spear in r. hand and a shield in l. hand. Only the name of St. Theodore (at r.) is preserved from the inscription: ... Ε-Ο-Δ-Ρ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a). | | ..CTΩ . . | . 8ΛΩΚΟC | ΤΗΚΙΚ8 | ΡΟΠ
b). ..ΕΠΟ. | ..ΜΑΡΤ. | ..CTΩCΩ | Δ8ΛΩΚΟC | . . ΚΙΚ . | ΡΟΠΑΛΑΤ
[Σκ]έπο[ι τε] μαρτ[υρε]ς τῶ σῶ δούλω Κοστήκι κουροπαλάτ(η)

437-438. Κωνσταντῖνος Ἀντίοχος κουροπαλάτης (80s-90s of the XI c.)

437. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24598. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-22 (over 22) 5 mm. Low-quality blank; there are traces of the channels for pouring lead into the mould. Two halves. Nevertheless the surface is well preserved.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 76; *Ed.* Йорданов, Куропалати, № 14; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 36.

438. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-23 (20 ?) 4 mm, 8.60 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 37.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 37.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Two unpublished bullae, struck in the same boulloterion and the same pair of dies, are stored in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58.106.3980 and 58.106.4758).

Obv. The Virgin seated on a high-backed throne, holding a medallion of the Christ Child before her chest. On either side the sigla: $\overline{MP} || \overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΚΩΝ | Κ8..ΠΑΛΑ | ΤΗΤΩΑΝ | .ΙΟΧΩ
Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Κων(σταντίνω) κου[ρο]παλάτη τῶ Ἀν[τ]ιόχω

439. Λέων Ἀριανίτης κουροπαλάτης (end, XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24132. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 13-15 (over 15) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. Blank smaller than the diameter of the dies. A further difficulty in reading is due to the obliteration of some of the letters.

Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 15; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 53.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ before her.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ..ΟΝΤΟ . | .8ΡΟΠΑΛ | . 8Τ8ΑΡΙ | .ΝΙΤ8
[+ Σφαγίς Λέ]οντο[ς κ]ουροπαλ(ά)[του] τοῦ Ἀρι[α]νίτου

440. Ἰωάννης or Μιχαήλ Παντεχνῆς κουροπαλάτης (XI c., end).

Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 770. D. 19-24 (24?) 3.5 mm, W. 5.80 g. Weak imprint; poor state of preservation. All that renders the reading of the text difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 22; Jordanov, F. Names, 562.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: M || Θ.

Circular inscription, beginning at 12 o'clock, between two borders of dots:

ΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Remains of a vertical inscription at r.: || Δ-H-M. Circular inscription between a double border of dots:ΠΑΛΑΤ...ΠΑΝΤ....

Joined and completed, the inscription reads as follows: [+Θ(εοτό)κε βο]ήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ [Ἰω(άννη) or Μιχ(αήλ) κουρο]παλάτ[η τῷ] Παντ[εχνῇ]

441-448. Νικηφόρος Χρυσοτζεφούδης κουροπαλάτης (1080s-1090s)

441. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Find-spot: The Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-19 (over 20) 3.5 mm. W. 9.30 g. Unsuccessful imprint, besides, the letters of the text are worn and effaced.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 77; Йорданов, Куропалати, № 17; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 760.

442. RHM-Yambol, no. II 4020. Find-spot: Pomorie. Half preserved. D. 12-23 (?) 3 mm.
Ed. Йорданов, Анхиало, № 13; Йорданов, Куропалати, № 18; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 761.

443. RHM-Yambol, no. II 3648. Find-spot: Krumovo Gradishte locality, the town of Karnobat. D. 19-22 (18) 3 mm. Well-preserved and successful imprint, but nevertheless some letters did not print.
Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 19; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 762.

444. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 23707. Offered for purchase by N. Georgiev from Shumen. Reported find-spot: Silistra. D. 19-20 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint and a bulla in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 20; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 763.

445. Private collection (S. Bilik, Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain ? May be the region between Stara and Nova Zagora. D. 20-23 (18) 3 mm. W. 8.348 g. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 21; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 764.

446-447. Private collection (collectors from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. Various states of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Куропалати, № 22-23; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 765-766.

448. RHM-Shumen, no. 14176. Purchased from Yordan Atanasov Borukov from Shumen. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-20 mm, W. 9.04 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 144.
The eight specimens come from the same boulloterion.
Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion and erroneously read in its publication (Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 683) is preserved in the Shaw collection no 1349.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Θ-ΕΟ || Δ-Ω-P'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡ' | Κ8ΡΟΠΑΛΑΤ' | ΤΟΧΡΥCΟ | ΤΖΕΦΟΝ | ΔΗ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) Νικηφόρ(ω) κουροπαλάτ(η) τῷ Χρυσοτζεφούδῃ

449-450. Σοφία κουροπαλάτισσα (80s-90s of the XI c.)

449. RHM-Shumen, no. 14663. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Dobri dol. D. 15-17 (14) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Dobri dol, no. 22; Йорданов, Куропалати, № 24.

450. Private collection. Find-spot: unspecified place in the area of the village of Starosel or Hisarya, Plovdiv region. D. 15-15 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown military saint (St. Theodore or George) holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ' . ' | CΟΦ.ΑΚ8 | ΡΟΠΑΛΑ | ΤΗCΔ8Λ' | X̄V

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) Σοφ[ί]α κουροπαλάτ(η)σ(ση) δούλ(η) Χ(ριστο)ῦ

451 Στέφανος κουροπαλάτης (end, XI c.).

RHM-Shumen, no. 15109. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 105. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 20-22 (17) 4 mm. W. 7.58 g. Incomplete imprint, especially the text on the reverse.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 145

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.. ΕΡΟ | . . ΕΙCΤΕ | . . ΝΟΚ8 | . . ΠΑΛΑ | ...

[+Κ(ύρι)]ε βο[ή]θ[ει] Cτε[φά]νο κου[ρο]παλά[τι]

452. N., κουροπαλάτης (last quarter, XI c.)

Private collection (E. Kosev from Shumen). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 14.5-16.5 (20 ?) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Fragment broken, which renders the reading uncertain.

Unpublished

No parallels known

Obv. Part from the bust of military saint.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | . . CΩΔ . | . ΝΘΗ . . | .ΟΠΑΛ . | - ΤΙ -

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) τῷ] σῷ δ[ού(λω)] [Ἀ]νθ[η] [κουρ]οπαλ[ά]τι

1) μάγιστρος

Its origin comes from the ancient magister officiorum, who was in his capacity as prime civil minister in the late Roman Empire. In the VIIIth-IXth-century written sources,

two groups of magisters are distinguished. The one traditionally represents the college of emperor's advisers (who were granted this title for life) and the other – the honorific. In the IXth c., it finally developed into an ordinary title of a high rank. It was the highest title intended for dignitaries who were unrelated to the imperial family. It retained this position in the rank lists in the Xth c. as well, after which time we observe its lagging behind and being outstripped by the newly introduced titles, such as proedros, kouropalates and others.

Lit. : Bury, *System*, 29-33; Boak, A.E.R and J. E. Dunlap, *Two Studies in Later Roman and Byzantine Administration*, New York, 1924, 49-58. Its last mention in the documents is from 1107 and 1108 (Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 294, n. 35).

Βόνος μάγιστρος (VI-VII c.) see no. 2236

453. Θεόδωρος Μαρσίνοσ μάγιστρος (second half of the XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nesebar, no. 2139. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D.17.5-18 (15) 3 mm. W.6.07 g. Well-centered and complete imprint. Unpublished. No parallels known

Obv. Bust of Theodore, holding a spear (r. hand) and shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ- ΘΕ-Ο || Δ-.-Ρ.-C : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Θεόδ[ω]ρ[ο]ς

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

СΦΡΑΓΙ | СМАΓИР | 8ΘΕΩΔΟΡ | 8МАРСИ | N8
+ Σφραγὶς μαγίστρου Θεωδόρου Μαρσίνου

454. Κωνσταντῖνος Βουρτζης μάγιστρος (mid-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 143. Found in the village of Kostenets, Sofia region, and donated to the museum by Veselin Bonev Giurov from Sofia on 22nd February 1957. D. 19-19.5 (18) 4 mm. W. 6.96 g. Very good imprint and bulla in a superb state of preservation. *Ed.* Jordanov, *Family Names*, no.120. *Parallels:* Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is kept in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO.58.106.778), see Cheynet, *Bourtzes*, 35-36, pl. I.7.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ- ΘΕ-Ο || Δ- Ω-Ρ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΚΩΝ | ΜΑΓΙСТΡ' | ΤΩΡΟVP | ΤΖΗ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει Κων(σταντίνω) μαγίστρ(ω) τῷ Βούρτζη

455. Λέων Ἐταιριώτης μάγιστρος (second half of XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24828. Comes from the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda, Sliven region. D. 15-16 (13) 4 mm. W. 3.03 g. Off-centered with parts of the inscription out of the blank, especially the last two lines, which makes the reading of the patronym difficult. At least two

different patronyms could be restored from the letters available in the last two lines: the one suggested above, whose etymology derives from the position ἔταιρειάρχης; CTAI| PIO=Σταιριο(της). Thus, its etymology could be connected with the settlement Stirion. For the seals of the monastery St. Louka of Sterion, see Laurent, *Corpus*, V.2, nos. 1261-1263, 1942.

Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 16; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 217.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

O-A-ΓΙ-Ο || Γ-Ε-Ω-Ρ-Γ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΜΑΓΙСТΡ' | ΤΩΕΤΑΙ | ΡΙΟ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει Λέοντι μαγίστρ(ω) τῷ Ἐταιριό(τη)

456. Μιχαήλ Στυπειώτης μάγιστρος καὶ βεστάρχης (third quarter, XI c.)

Private collection (S. Bilik, Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-17(15)2 mm. W. 4.37 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation. The letters are very well engraved and printed.

Ed. Билик, Фамилни имена, № 13; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.680.

No parallels known.

Obv. Indistinct bust of a military saint.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΜΑΓΙСТΡ' | ΡΕCΤΑΡΧ' | ΤΩCΤΟV | ΠΙΩΤ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει Μιχαήλ μαγίστρ(ω) βεσταρχ(η) τῷ Cτουπ(ε)ιώτ(η)

457. Πολύευκτος μάγιστρος (last quarter, XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 1278. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 14-15(11) 3.1 mm. Superb imprint and condition.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, IV, № 17.

Parallels: Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 534, no 15; Laurent, *Bulles metriques*, no 308;

Obv. Bust of the Virgin frontally, holding Christ on her l. arm. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΠΟΛV | ΕVΚΤΟΝΜΑ | ΓΙCΤΡΟΝ | ΑΓΝΗΜΕ | CΚΕΠ
+ Πολύευκτον μάγιστρον Ἀγνή με σκέπ(οις)

For more information on Polievktos Magistros, see no.507, where the latest stage in his career is presented.

458. Ρωμανός Μοναστηριώτης μάγιστρος (XI c. second half).

RHM-Shumen, no. 14524. Donation from Dimitar Yordanov from Shumen (Emil Kossev). Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elkhovo. D.17.1-19 (17) 2.5 mm. W. 3.989 g. Good imprint and good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 47; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 471.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding spear in r. hand, l. hand set on shield resting on ground. Inscription of two columns : Θ-Δ-Η-. || .-Τ-Ρ-Ι-Ο'

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots.

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΩΜΑΝΩ | ΜΑΓΙΣΤΡΩ | ΤΩΜΟΝΑ | ΣΤΗΡΙΟΤ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Ρωμανῶ μαγίστρῳ τῷ Μοναστηριότ(η)

459. Στέφανος Ν., μάγιστρος (end, XI c.).

RHM-Shumen, no. 15092. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 88. Find-spot: Stara Zagora region. D.18-20 (18) 4 mm. W. 4.72 g. Well-centered but worn imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 147

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of indeterminate military saint.

Rev. Inscription of five or six lines.

..... | ΤΩΣΩΔ8' | ΣΤΕΦΑΝΩ | ΜΑΓΙΣΤΡΩ | ΤΟ... |
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Στεφάνῳ μαγίστρῳ το

la) νοβελίσσιμος

459A. Μιχαήλ Καματηρὸς νοβελίσσιμος (between 1157 and 1166)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 34-36 (29) 3.9 mm. W. 20.30 g. Complete but poorly-preserved imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 256.

No parallels known.

Obv. Metrical inscription of four lines:

.+. | ΠΡΑΞΕΙΣ | ΣΦΡΑΓΙΣΩ | ΜΙΧΑΗΛΤΑΣ | ΕΓΓΡΑΦ8C

Rev. Metrical inscription in four lines:

NWREΛΛΙ | ΣΙΜΟΝΚΑ | ΜΑΤΗΡΩΝ | ΕΚΓΕΝΟΝC | -.-

+Πράξεις σφραγίζω Μιχαήλ τὰς ἐγγράφους νοβελισίμου Καματηρῶν ἐκ γένους

ma) πανυπερσέβαστη

A title which is a derivative of σεβαστος. It was introduced in the rank hierarchy by Alexios I Komnenos.

460-461. [Μαρία Κομνηνὴ] πανυπερσέβαστη (1082-1136).

460. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 2086. It entered the museum as early as 1918. D. 26-27(24)4.1 mm. Incomplete imprint but a well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 30; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 322.

461. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23.5-24 (22) 3 mm, W. 5.60 g. Good imprint and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 30; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 322.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Zacos, Seals, I, no. 2720 a-c; Bulgakova, no. 1.4.4.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her chest. Traces of a sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ:

Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) + ΤΗΝ | ΠΑΝΥΠΕΡ | ΣΕΡΑΚΤΟΝ | . ΓΝΗΜΟ. | . ΚΕ .

b) + ΤΗΝ | ΠΑΝΥΠΕΡ | ΣΕΡΑΚΤΟΝ | ΑΓΝΗΜΟΙ | ΣΚΕΠ

+ Τὴν πανυπερσέβαστον Ἀγνή μοι σκέπ(οις)

mb) πανυπερσέβαστος

462-463. Ἀλέξιος Κομνηνὸς Βρανᾶς πανυπερσέβαστος (1183-1186)

462. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 43. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-29.5 (27) 3 mm. W.13.71 g. Good but incomplete imprint. Some letters are out of the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Комнини-Ангели, № 5; Jordanov, Family Names, no.121.

463. Private collection. A plaster cast of the same was sent to me by Ivan Karajotov from Burgas. It stems from the Plovdiv region, probably from Dobri dol. D. 22-23 mm; 30 mm of the border of dots. Half of what was once an indistinct imprint, especially on the obverse.

Ed. Йорданов, Комнини-Ангели, № 6; Jordanov, Family Names, no.122.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

a). + | ΑΛΕΞΙΟΣ | ΤΥΠΟΙΜΕΡ | ΠΑΝΑC ΔΕCΠ. | ΤΗCΚΟΜΝΗΝ. | ΦΥΗC

b) . | . . . ΕΞΙΟΣ | ΙΜΕΡ | | ΝΗΝΟ | . . ΗC

+ Ἀλέξιος τύποι με Βρανᾶς δεσπ[ό]της Κομνηνοφύης

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a). ΕΚΓΕΝ8C | Τ8ΜΗΤΡΟΘΕ | ΚΑΙΠΑΝΥΠΕΡ | ΣΕΡΑΤΟCΕΚ | . ΗCΑΞΙΑ

b). ΕΚΓΕΝ. . | Τ8ΜΗΤ | ΚΑΙΠΑΝ | ΣΕΡΑΤΟ . . . | ΤΗCΑ . . .

ἐκ γένους τοῦ μητρόθεν καὶ πανυπερσέβαστος ἐκ τῆς ἀξία

n) πατρικία ζωστή

A prime maid of honour with a definite place in the ceremony not only in the ginekeia but also in the court. The first titular was attested in 821/822 and refers to Theoktista, Empress Theodora's mother, who immediately after the marriage of her daughter to Emperor Theophilos was granted this dignitary (*Lit. Vogt, A.* Notes sur la patricienne a centure. - *EO*, 37,1938, 352-356; *rez. F. D.* - *BZ*, 39,1939, 522-523; *Guilland, R.* La patricienne a centure. - *BSI*, 32,1971, 269-275). Her seal is also known (see *Zacos, Seals*, II, no. 1083).

Starting from 842/843 down to the taktikon of the Escorial (971-975), it occupied the first position in the rank lists after the first four personal titles intended for particular persons most often related to the imperial family (see *Oikonomides, Listes*, U 47.7; P 95.22; B 245.4; S 263.8).

Along with πατρικίαι ζωστιαί, ordinary ζωστιαί are also known unrepresented in the cited taktikons. The evolution of this personal title in the XIth c. cannot be determined with certainty; however, there are a number of cases of πατρικίαι ζωστιαί: Irene nun and zoste

(Laurent, *Corpus*, V/3, no 2011); Maria Melissene (Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, no 128); Maria zoste (Zacos, *Seals*, II, nos.448; 569) and others. The last Bulgarian tsarina, the widow of John Vladislav, was also introduced to this rank.

464. Μαρία πατρικία ζωστή (XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no.602. Find-spot: the town. D.18-25 (over 25) 2 mm. Almost completely corroded bulla; fragments broken; the preserved letters are rather effaced. All that renders the reading of the homonym difficult which is inscribed in the same manner as the better-preserved seals of female titulars by the same name (see Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 569; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, no. 128).

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Traces of a circular inscription. Sigla: .. || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

...PH | .ΠΑΤΡΙ | ΚΗΑΣΖ. | CTH

[+Μα]ρήα πατρικήα (καὶ) ζωστήη

After overcoming our hesitations regarding the proper name, πατρικία ζωστή also presents a certain problem. The question is whether it applies to an effective office or the seal belonged to an ordinary zoste, i.e. one of the maids of honour. It is also necessary to add that the seals of zostai are very rare; I know of seals having belonged to two or three titulars, of which two are named Maria, but the title patrikia is not mentioned in either of the cases.

The identification of the owner of the seal is difficult, even impossible, since the name Maria is very common and three of the several seals of zostai belonged to Maria. However, a commentary on the information regarding the conferment of this title on the Bulgarian tsarina Maria would be of some help. John Skylitzes states “but he honored Maria with the dignity of patrikia zosti and sent her to the capital with her sons” [τὴν δὲ Μαρίαν τῷ τῆς ζωστής πατρικίου] (Skylitzes, 364.63-65, in the Bulgarian translation of this passage, the title patrikia was left out, see ГИБН, VI, c. 295). We are again facing the same problem – whether this is an effective title of a prime maid of honour, or a honorific title? Judging by the ensuing events around the year 1030, when Maria was accused of conspiracy against the crown, it is more likely that it applies to an effective title – of a maid of honour in the Palace.

The dating of the present bulla is generally to the X-XIth c., thus allowing an identification of the owner of the seal with the ex Bulgarian tsarina, but that remains only in the sphere of conjecture. It may well refer to other titulars as well.

465. Μαρία πατρικία (mid-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15035. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain – Pliska?. D.22-23.5 (22) 3 mm. W. 15.60 g. Well-centered imprint but made on another seal, which renders the reading difficult. It is impossible to read the inscription of the understrike.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 148.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her ? Sigla: MP || ΘV, above

them a prickle is engraved.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΘΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘΙ | ..CΙΔ'ΜΑ | ... ΠΡΠ | ...

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ε)ι [τῇ] σι δ(ούλ)η Μα[ρία] π(ατ)ρι[κία]

A question arises about the statute of this Maria: whether she is patrikia zoste or wife of patrikios.

ο) πατρίκιος

A higher title established by Constantine I the Great (306-337) as descendent from the Roman patriciate. Until the time of Justinian I (527-565), it was available only for illustres. Centuries on end, the patrikioi represented the superior class of senators. It occupied various positions in the rank lists. It was conferred both on eunuchs from the Palace being in connection with their duties and on non-eunuchs from outside the Palace. In the Xth and the early XIth centuries, it still retained its position of a title of high standing only to be pushed far behind still in the same XIth c. and especially in its second half, when it became obsolete (*Lit.* and a full prosopographical list of the patrikioi from Constantine I the Great (306-337) down to Alexios I (1081-1118) is presented by R. Guiland in a series of publications, see Oikonomides, *Listes*, 294-295, n.40-41).

466. Ἀναστάσιος Σολομῶν πατρίκιος (1050s-1060s)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20796. Related with the complex of seals from the Strategia. D. 14.5-22 (over 22) 2 mm. Fragment about a half.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 538; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 665.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael; only part of the r. wing visible in much detail, including even the feathers.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | .ΗΤ... | ΔΟΥΛΩ... | CΤΑCΙΟ... | ΤΩCΩ... | ΩΝ..

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ]η τ[ῷ] σ[ῶ] δούλω [Ἀνα]στασίο [π(ατ)ρι(κίω)] τῷ

Σω[λομ]ῶν[τι]

467. Βασίλειος Ἀγαπιτός πατρίκιος (50s-60s of XI c.)

Private collection (Slavei Petrov, Haskovo). Discovered in the Chala fortress near the village of Goliam Izvor, Haskovo region. D.17-17 (15) 2.5 mm. A good imprint and a well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Йорданов-Аладжов, Хасковско, № 1; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 2.

Parallels: Another specimen of the same dignitary struck in the same boulloterion is stored in G. Zacos's unpublished collection (Zacos, III, no. 1724)

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: MP || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | RACIA'ΠΡΠ | ΤΩΑΓΑ | ΠΙΤ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δούλω Βασιλ(είω) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) τῷ Ἀγαπιτ(ῳ)

468. Γεώργιος Μαύρος πατρίκιος (50s-60s of XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15454. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 19-20 (17) 3 mm. W. 6.08 g. A good imprint and a well-preserved specimen.
Unpublished.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔΟΝ | -ΛΩ- | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΓΕΩΡ | ΓΙΩΠΡΙ | ΚΙΩΤΩ | ΜΑΥΡΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Γεωργίῳ π(ατ)ρική τῷ Μαύρῳ

A seal of George Mauros grammatikos is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (Shaw 47.2. 1443 and Fogg A.M. 864), see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 1189. Its publisher dates it generally to the XIth c. It is quite possible that it refers to the same person.

468A. Γεώργιος Χοιροσφάκτης πατρίκιος (second half, XI c.)

Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elkhovo. D.29-29 (4) ? mm. Complete imprint in a fairly good state of preservation. Cracked along the center.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Mordtmann**, *Grece*, p 48 and two unpublished specimens from collections DO Shaw 1060 and Zacos, III (two copies).

Obv. Inscription in four lines:

+| ΓΕΩΡΓΙ | WCΦΡΑΓΙC | MAT8XOIP' | CΦAKT8 | .

Rev. Inscription in four lines:

.| T8ΠΡΙ | ΚΙWAΞIWC | ΤΕΤΑΓΜΕ | -NOV -

+ Γεωργίου σφράγισμα τοῦ Χοιρ(ο)σφάκτου τοῦ π(ατ)ρικίου ἁξίως τεταγμένου

469. Θεόδωρος πατρίκιος VI-VII c.

RHM-Shumen, no. 14953/4. Find-spot: from the fortress near the village of Dropla, Varna region. D. 19-20 (?) 3 mm. W. 5.30 g.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 149.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform monogram (Pl.II. 30) Θεοδώρου

Rev. Block monogram (Pl.I. 6) πατρίκιου. In the central field, a cross.

469A. Θεοκτιστος πατρίκιος (VI-VII c.) see 2421.

470. Θεοφύλακτος πατρίκιος (50s-60s of XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.142. Found in Selymbria ? by P. Kunev in 1912. It was passed on to the museum in 1953. D.12-13 (12) 4 mm. W.3.55 g. The reading of the third line recording the title is uncertain due to the small size. Specimen in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Мушмов**, *Печати*, № 35.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΘΕΟΦΝ | ΛΑΚΤΩ | ΠΡΙ

Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοφυλάκτῳ π(ατ)ρική

In the publication cited above, the abbreviation ΠΡΙ has been deciphered = πρι(μικηρίῳ).

The owner of the seal is impossible to identify. I am familiar with many seals of individuals by the same name and similar characteristics; however, any identification would be far-fetched.

471. Ἰωάννης Δουκίτζης πατρίκιος (50s-60s of XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2386. Found in the course of field work in Pod Manastira locality in Preslav in 1917 D. 23-25 (22?) 3 mm. W. 9.90 g. Good imprint, covered with white patina; a fragment broken.

Ed. **Маслев**, *Печати*, 455-456; **Тотев**, *Новооткрити печати*, с. 290, № 3; **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 78; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 207.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin standing on a souppedion, her arm extended upward toward the *Manus Dei* that should appear in the upper left side of the field. Sigla: MP || ..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- + - | .ΚΕΡ. | ΗΘΕΙΩ | ΠΡΙΠΩΔ8 | ΚΙΤΖΙ | - ο -

+ [Θ(εοτό)]κε β[ο]ήθ(ει) Ἰω(άννη) π(ατ)ρική τῷ Δουκίτζι

In the cited publication I have noted that the Preslav seal has a similar dating with that of Michael Doukitze's in Zacos' unpublished collection of family names (Zacos, III, no. 1458):

Obv. Bust of St. Michael with ruler's insignia.

Rev. + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛΠΡΙ | ΑΝΘΥΠΙΑΤΩ | CΤΡΑΤΗΓΩ | .ΩΔ8ΚΙ | TZ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Μιχαήλ π(ατ)ρική ἀνθυπάτῳ (καὶ) στρατηγῷ [τ]ῷ Δουκίτζ(η)

Correctness requires to note that according to W. Seibt (*BZ*, 101, S.820) it refers to στρατηγῷ τῆς Λουκανίας, and thus any connection with our seal is excluded. I accept Prof. Seibt's emendation since he has had access to the original while my observations have been based on the photo kept in the Vienna phototheque.

472. Ἰωάννης Λοῦλος πατρίκιος (1050s-1060s)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 13417. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-24(24?)3 mm. W. 6.80 g. Once a good imprint, but now with a chipped upper part.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 79; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 403.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her breast. Sigla: .. || Θ̄V̄.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.... | .ΩCΩΔ. | ἸΩΠΡΙΤ. || -Λ8ΛΟ-
 [Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ού)λῳ] Ἰω(άννη) τ[ῷ] Λούλο

473. Ἰωάννης Πενταηλοπούλος πατρίκιος (XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1907. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15-15 (12.5) 3 mm. W. 3.97 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint. Damaged surface. Some letters were damaged, others did not print which renders the reading uncertain.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕ | . . ΗΘ ΕΙ | .ΩCΩΔ' | ο ΛΩ ο

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. . Ω | . . ΤΡΙ | . . ΕΝΤ' | . 8ΛΩ
 + Κ(ύρι)ε [βο]ήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ού)λῳ [Ἰ]ω(άννη) [πα]τρι(κίῳ) [τ(ῷ)]
 Π]εντ(αηλο)[π]ούλῳ

In the phototheque in Vienna I encountered an index-card of a seal preserved in the collection of the Hermitage (M-6778). It probably belonged to the same person at an early period of his career:

Obv. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ'Ι. | CΠΑΘ' ΚΑΝ | ΔΙΔ' SΜΕΙ | ΧΑΡΤ8 | Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

Τ8ΓΕΝ' | ΚΟΝΛΟΓΟ | ΘΕCΗ8Τ. | ΠΕΝΤΑ . . | ΠΩΛ .

According to W. Seibt, the family name is Πεντα[ηλο]πώλ[ω]. The name is abbreviated on our specimen so it can be deciphered as Πεντ(αηλο)[π]ούλῳ. This reading poses the question of the connection of these seals with Ἰωάννης Πενταίλας, πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπάτος, on him, see no. 612

474. Κοσμᾶς πατρίκιος VI-VII c.

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna) no. 390. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-22 mm. W. 10.3. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation, a little off-center.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of two lines:

ΚΟ | CΜΑ

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

ΠΑ | ΤΡΙΚ' | ΟV
 Κοσμᾶ πατρικ(ί)ου

475. Κοτζίλος ὁ τοῦ Μιλκοῦ πατρίκιος (1050s-1060s)

RHM-Dobrich, no. 1280. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 18-19(16) 3.1 mm. W. 6.60 g. Very good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Йорданов, Silistra, IV, № 9; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 469.
Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies was found in Noviodunum. Perhaps the author of the publication (*Barnea*, Dobrudja, no 4) did not manage to read the names of its owner due to its fragmentary state.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- + - | ΚΕRO | ΗΘΕΙ | ΤΩCΩ | ΩΔ8ΛΩ | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | ΚΟΤΖΙ | ΛΩΠΡΙ | ΤΟΤΟV | ΜΙΑΚ8 | - ο -
 +Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κοτζίλῳ π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ) το τοῦ Μιλκοῦ

476. Κωνσταντῖνος Δαλασηνὸς πατρίκιος (50s-60s of XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24131. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-25 (22) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the depiction and some letters are out of the blank. A bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 157.
Parallels: Two specimens struck with the same pair of dies (DO. 55.1.2994 and 58.106.2409) are kept in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (on them, see *Cheyne*, *Dalassenoi*, no. 13). Two other unpublished specimens are preserved in Zacos Collection (*Zacos*, III, no. 1474).

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), his l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: || .-.-M-I-T-P-I'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. | ΚΕRO.. | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | ΚΩΝΠΡΙΤΩ | ΔΑΛΑCΗ | -NΩ -
 [+]
 Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ήθ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Κων(σταντίνῳ) π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ) τῷ
 Δαλασηνῷ

For more information on the XIth-century individuals bearing these names, see *Jordanov, F. Names*, nos. 157-159

476A. Κωνσταντῖνος Θεοδωροκάνος πατρίκιος (1050s-1060s)

Archaeological center, Veliki Preslav, no. 107. Found in the dug-out soil in the course of excavations in the Inner City of Great Preslav, Palace Complex site, Eastern section on August 1, 2003. D. 24-26 (17) 4.5 mm. Once a good imprint; two holes: initially, one at the one end, made for suspension on something (perhaps the document), later holed in the center (an opening of 5-6 mm) and used as a weight of a spindle? The second opening has destroyed the letters of the proper and family name, which renders the reading of the text difficult. The restoration of the text is based on the parallel specimen cited below.
Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 228.

Parallels: The Hermitage Collection (M-1799) contains another specimen, perhaps struck in the same boulloterion, see Шандровская, Сфрагистика, № 1729.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | C..ΛΩ | ...

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | ΑΝΘΥ | ΠΑΤ.ΡΙ | ΤΩ... | ΔΟ... | -Ν'-

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ[ει] τῷ σ[ῶ] δούλ[ω] [Κων(σταντίνω)] ἀνθυπάτ(ω)
[π(ατ)]ρι(κίω) τῷ [Θεο]δο[ροκ(ά)]ν(ω)

477. Μιχαήλ Ξηρὸς (?) πατρίκιος (XI c.)

Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov, Elkhovo). Deposited by the police in the National Historical Museum, Sofia. It may be from the region. The main group of seals in this collection stem from the village of Melnitsa, district of Elkhovo. Dim. 25-26 mm. The reading of the patronym is uncertain due to the weak imprint of the third line.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 527.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription of two columns: || Δ- Ω-ΡΟ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΠΡΙΚΙΩ | ΤΩΞΗΡ | Ω -
Μιχαήλ π(ατ)ρικίω τῷ Ξηρῷ

478. Μιχαήλ Τουρκοπούλος πατρίκιος (first half, XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: Northeastern Bulgaria. Offered for purchase by Valentin Zhekov whose find-spot information is very often reliable. D. 18-19 mm.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 726.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael facing, with nimbus and wings. No visible details of his dress and insignia.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ' . | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΠΑΤΡΙΚΙ' | ΤΩ.8Ρ | ΚΟΠ8Λ'
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει)] Μιχαήλ πατρικί(ω) τῷ [Τ]ουρκοπούλ(ω)

479. Νικηφόρος πατρίκιος (IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15229. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-25 (over 25) 4 mm. W. 14.48 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The blank was quite smaller in diameter than the dies.

Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 150.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I. 4); in the quarters: . Ω-СΩ || . 8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of three lines, preceded by decoration:

ΝΙΚΗ | .ΟΡΟΠ. | ΤΡΙΚ . .

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη [τ]ῷ σῶ [δ]ούλ[ω] Νικη[φ]όρο π[α]τρικ[ί]ω

480. Νικόλαος Καλλίνικος πατρίκιος (mid-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15143. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 139. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 14-15 (17 ?) 4 mm. W. 3.58 g. Once a complete good imprint. Now with fragments cut, which renders the reading of the homonym difficult.

Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 151.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her chest. Sigla: MP || ..Traces of an invocative inscription.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

...Κ . | . . ΩΠΡΙ | . ΩΚΑΛΛΙ | ΝΙΚ'ο -
[+ Θεοτό]κε βοήθ(ε)ι Νικ[ολά]ω π(ατ)ρικίω [τ]ῷ Καλλινίκο

481. Ρώστος πατρίκιος (VIII-IX c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 30-32 (20) 6 mm. Good imprint, but bulla in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Barnea, *Noi sigilii*, no. 8.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ - Δ8 || ΛΩ-С8.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΡΩ | СΤΩ | ΠΑΤ. | ΚΙΩ
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ δούλ[ω] σου Ρώστω πατ[ρ(ι)]κίω

482. Σισίνιος πατρίκιος (VII-VIII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, currently of unknown location. Find-spot: uncertain, perhaps Istanbul. D. 27-28 (?) 5 mm.

Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 26.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΔΟΥ | .ΟΝΧ̄ΝСΙ | .ΙΝΝΟΠ | ΑΤΡΙΚΙ | ΟΥ +

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ VIOI | ΙΩΑ.. | ΟΥΠΑΤΡ | ΙΚΙΟΥ +
+ Δου[λ]οῦ Χ(ριστο)ῦ Σι[σ]ινίου πατρικίου υἱοῦ Ἰωα[νν]ου πατρικίου

483. Στέφανος πατρίκιος (second half, VII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 152 (the former collection of V. Haralanov from Shumen). Information on the seal and its transcript can be found in the letter of Dr. Haralanov to Prof. Gerassimov of 22nd December 1968, where Dr. Haralanov noted northeastern Bulgaria as a probable find-spot. D. 21-22 (21) 4-5 mm. W. 13.99 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation. Covered with green oxide.
Unpublished.

Parallels: **Konstantopoulos**, no. 453; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 1012. They were struck in a different boulloterion. The reverse lettering is different.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

. CTE | ΦΑΝΟΝ | ΠΑΤΡΙ | ΚΙΟΝ

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

. . . | ΛΟΝΤΗ | ΘΕΟΤ | ΟΚΟΝ

[+] Στεφάνου πατρικίου [δού]λου τῆς Θεοτόκου

484. Σφενδοβολος πατρίκιος (1050s-1060s)

RHM-Stara Zagora, no.10 SZ-2. Find-spot: the town. D. 23-23 (over 24) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Some letters were subsequently worn or did not print well. All that renders the overall reading difficult.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Брое, № 12; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.682.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of a military saint, holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). The imprint was made in the upper part of the blank; as a result, the inscription recording the saint's name did not print.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | .ΩCΩΔ | CΦΕΝΔΟ | ΡΟΛΩΠΡΙ | - ΚΙΩ -

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Σφενδοβόλῳ π(ατ)ρικίῳ

484A. Φιλιππικος πατρίκιος (VI-VII c.) see no. 2321

485. Νικηφόρος Σιναΐτης πατρίκιος ὑπατος (mid-XI c.)

RHM-Sliven. Find-spot: fortress near the town of Sliven. D. 27-28 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. I obtained a photo through Bogdana Lilova.

Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:..... || T-PH-O-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΝΙΚΙΦΟΡ' | ΠΡΙΚΙΩ . | ΠΑΤΟΣ . | ΝΑ . . . | - . -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Νικιφόρ(ω)π(ατ)ρικίῳ [ὑ]πάτ(ω) (τ)ο Συναίτη

The reading of the patronym is assumptive. In the XIIth c., M. Glykas reported of a certain Νικηφόρος Σιναΐτης, "the closest man of the basileus" (see Glykas, *Aporien*, 1, p. 281.2-3). For the rest of the representatives of the Synaites family in the XIIth c., see Jordanov, *Family Names*, nos.651-652.

ρ) πριμικήριος

A palace office referring to many eunuchs in service at the Palace. It was also connected with both military and civil positions in the administration of the Empire. Similar to the other offices, it likewise developed into a title initially intended only for eunuchs and subsequently for ordinary nobles as well. Its derivative πρωτοπριμικήριος also appeared in the XIth c. and mostly at its end. In the cases when it is not accompanied by other characteristics, it should be assumed that it refers to an ordinary title of a not very high rank (*Lit.* **Bury**, *System*, 122-123; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 330-332; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 300; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S. 174). It concerns mostly the XIth c.

486. Θεόδωρος πριμικήριος (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 15033. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 21.5-23.5 (19) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint, but bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Силистра, № 16.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). No vertical inscription visible.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΚΕΡ' . | .ΕΟΔΟ . | .PHM . | KIP

[+] Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδό[ρ(ω) π]ρημ[η]κιρ(ίω)

Our interest in this bulla stems from the fact that it is close in depiction and text to the seal of Θεόδωρος πριμικήριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δρίστρα (see here, no.1168).

The question whether both seals apply to one person will remain open. There are no sufficient data.

487. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πριμικήριος (X c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 14-17 mm. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the dies remained out of the blank.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | TANTH . | .Α'CΠΑΘ' | ΣΠΙΜΙΚΙ | ΡΗΩ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ [Κωνσ]ταντή[ν(ω)] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) πριμικιρίῳ

488. Νικόλαος πριμικήριος (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 25-25 mm. Good imprint, but bulla in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Barnea, Durostorum, no. 5.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΝΙΚΟΛΑΩ | ΠΡΙΜΙΚ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Νικολάω πριμικ(ηρίῳ)

q) πρόεδρος / πρωτοπρόεδρος

According to Leo the Deacon, Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969) in his desire to requite the person who had helped for his enthroning, the eunuch Basil Lakapenos, then parakoimomenos at the Palace, established the title πρόεδρος τῆς συγκλήτου βουλῆς especially for him (**Leo the Deacon**, 99, n.56; **Diehl**, Proedre, 105-106).

This is the highest title intended for eunuchs in the taktikon of Eusebius. It is personal (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 292) and applies to Basil Lakapenos, whose bullae are presented above in his capacity as a parakoimomenos (see nos. 257-261).

Until the mid-XIth c., it was still reserved only for eunuchs; however, several proedroi at the same time are found in the written sources, which means that more than one person simultaneously held the office (provided it was such), thus actually transforming it into a title. This called for the establishment initially of the office and later (after 1060s) of the title πρωτοπρόεδρος (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 299).

There were πρόεδροι and πρωτοπρόεδροι with the rank of metropolitan bishops and synkellos in the church hierarchy as well (**Laurent**, *Corpus*, V, p. 170).

These two titles were most common in the 1070s, when they were held both by officials from the central administration in the capital and by a number of provincial administrative, financial, law and other officials.

It was last mention in the written sources as a secular title in 1118 and as an ecclesiastical one in 1140 (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 299, n. 73).

488A. Εἰρήνη Μεταλίνα πρόεδρισσα (last quarter of the XI c.)

Private collection (the former collection of D. Dimitrov from Pernik). Find-spot: the fortress near Constantza.

D. 17-17 (14) 5 mm. Slightly off-center. Good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.468.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her chest. Sigla: \overline{M} || $\overline{\Theta V}$: M(ήτηρ)
Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

... ΕΡ'Θ' | .ΡΕΝΗ | ΠΡΩΕΔΡΗ | .ΗΤΗΜΕ | ΤΑΛΙΝ.

[+Θ(εοτό)κ]ε β(οή)θ(ει) [Ε(ι)]ρένη πρωεδρή[σ(σ)]η τῇ Μεταλίν[α]

I am not aware of such a family.

489. Ἀλέξανδρος Παλαιολόγος πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.13136. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-20 (over 20) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 537.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ -Δ-H-M ||

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΑΛΕΞΑΝ | ΔΡΩΠΡΟΕ | ΔΡΩΤΩ | ΠΑΛΕΟ | ΛΟΓ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἀλεξάνδρῳ προέδρῳ τῷ Παλεολόγ(ῳ)

490. Γερμανὸς πρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)

Private collection. A photograph of it was shown to me by N. Nikolov, a student at Veliko Turnovo University.

Reported find-spot: Gradishteto locality near Svoge. D. 15-15 mm.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ -ΝΙ || ΚΟ-Λ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΓΡΑΦ | ΣΦΡΑΓΙ | ΖΩΣΛΟΓ8 | ΓΕΡΜΑΝ' | Κ'Α'ΕΔΡ'

+ Γραφ(ας) σφραγίζω (καὶ) λογοῦ Γερμαν(οῦ) (καὶ) (προ)έδρ(ου)

491-492. Γριγόριος Κουρκούας πρόεδρος (1080s)

491. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18566. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-22 (18) 3.1 mm. W. 7.28 g. Once a good imprint but now in a poor state of preservation. The upper half of the saint's face and the first line are damaged.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 82; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.368.

492. Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-22(18)3 mm. W. 6.008 g. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. **Билик**, *Фамилни имена*, № 2; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.369.

Both specimens come from the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Another specimen, according to its publisher (**Шандровская**, *Армянских деятелей*, XI-XII вв, с. 191), struck in a different matrix than the Preslav specimen, is preserved in the collection of the Hermitage (M-2020). The illustration on p. 189, no. 4, is of poor quality, and it is hard to determine with any certainty whether it is struck with a different matrix, but the transcribed text is identical to that of our specimens.

Obv. Bust of St. Mercurios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ -ΜΕ-Ρ || Κ-8-Ρ-V'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΩ | Α'ΕΔΡΩΤΩ | Κ8ΡΚΟΝ | Α ο

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Γριγορίῳ (πρω)έδρῳ τῷ Κουρκούα

493. Θεόδωρος Ἀμασειάνος πρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 47. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-24 (20) 3 mm, W. 10.81 g. Good imprint and well-preserved bulla.

Ed. **Мухомов**, Печати, № 37; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 33.

Parallels: **Konstantopoulos**, no. 483d; **Stavrakos**, no. 12 and an unpublished specimen from Fogg A. M. collection, no. 255. All they were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a high-backed throne holding a medallion of Christ before her breast.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΘΕΟΔΩΡΩ | ΠΡΟΕΔΡΩ | ΤΩΑΜΑC | ΙΑΝ.

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδώρῳ προέδρῳ τῷ Ἀμασιάν[ω]

494. Θεόδωρος Φραγγοπούλος πρόεδρος (second half, XI c.)

Private collection (S. Bilik, Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-24 (17) 2.5 mm. W. 4.056 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Билик**, Фамилии имена, № 18; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, 737.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || O-ΔO-P'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΘΕΟΔΟΡΟ | Α'ΕΔΡΩ | ΤΟΦΡΑ. | ...-

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδόρο(προ)έδρῳ το Φρα[γγοπούλῳ]

495. Θεοχάριστος πρόεδρος (late XI c.)

Private collection (P. Vatkov from Burgas). Find-spot: Pomorie (Anchialos). D. 15-16 mm. Good imprint and good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a martyr's cross (r. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns:

Θ-ΓΕ-Ω || Ρ-ΓΙ-ΟC

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗ | ΘΕΙΘΕΩ. | ΑΡΙ^ϞΘΠΡΟ | ΕΔΡΟ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει Θεω[χ]αρίστο προέδρο

496. Ἰωάννης Φασουλᾶς πρόεδρος (last quarter of the XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nesebar, no. 1930. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-19 (17.5) 2 mm. W. 3.73 g. Incomplete and dented imprint with damaged letters which renders the reading difficult.

Unpublished.

Obv. St. Demetrios ? standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand on a round shield, resting on the ground. Vertical inscription: ... H ... || . - T-P-I-O-C ['Ο ἄ(γιος)

Δ]η[μή]τριος

Rev. Inscription of four or five lines:

..... | | . ΕΔΡΟΝ | ΦΑCΟV | ΑΑΝ'ΙΩ

[.....] (προ)έδρον Φασουλᾶν Ἰω(άννην)

A seal preserved in the collection of the Archaeological Museum, Sofia, probably belonged to the same person where he is βέστης καὶ μυστικὸς (see no. 741 here). This seal reflects an earlier stage in the career of John Phasoulas. He is unknown from narrative sources. An anonymous representative of this family with the position of asekritis is mentioned in **Psellos**, *Oratoria minora*, 47.3 (Jeffreys attributes it to the period after 1050s). It is an open question whether it concerns our case. I am ignorant of other representatives of this family. For the later period, see *PLP*, no. 29655.

497. Κωνσταντῖνος Κατακαλὼν πρόεδρος (third quarter of the XI c.)

RHM-Sliven. Find-spot: fortress near the town of Sliven. D. 22-23 mm Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Obv. Three-quarter length figure of the Virgin standing holding Christ at l. Sigla: \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΚΩΝ | ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΤΟ | ΚΑΤΑΚΑ | Λ

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθε Κων(σταντίνῳ) προέδρο το Κατακαλ(ών)

Above all, the family name should be ascertained: Κατακαλὼν or Κατάκαλος. The way it is inscribed on our seal furnishes us with no certitude. For this reason we should provide data from seals containing both names.

a) Κωνσταντῖνος Κατάκαλος, σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος, χαρτουλᾶριος καὶ ἐπισκεπτίτης Ῥοδαντοῦ (*McGeer, Nesbitt, Oikonomides, DOS*, 4, no. 46.1).

b) Κωνσταντῖνος Κατακαλὼν, βέστης, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ Αἰγαίου Πελάγους, according to an unpublished bulla in Zacos collection, III, no 1604:

Obv. + ΚΕΡΟ|ΘΕΙΚΩΝ|ΡΕCΤΚΡΙ|ΤΗΕΠΙΤ8Ι|ΠΠΟΔΡΟ| -M-

Rev. |ΚΑΙΤ8|ΑΓΙΑΙΟV|ΠΕΛΑΓΟV|ΤΩΚΑΤΑ|ΚΑΛΩΝ

c) a private person, attested by there groups of seals:

- an unpublished bulla in Zacos collection, III, no 1426.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans.

Rev. + ΤΩ|ΚΑΤΑΚΑ|ΛΩΚΩΝ|..CΚΕ

- an unpublished bulla in the collection DO. 55. 1. 4048.

Obv. |+TONKA|TAKAΛONЄK

Rev. :KAKΩN|CΩΤΕP|PVON

- found in the area of Afyon (Turkey):

Obv. Theotokos (standing, raising hands to hand of God at upper) sigla, with invocation at circ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

Μήτηρ Θεοῦ. ὁ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κωνσταντίνῳ τῷ Κατακαλῶν

See: **Bulgurlu-Ilashli**, no. 25 (*SBS*, 8). It is the closest in its iconography to ours.

Provided they all belonged to the same person, ours is the latest and containing the highest position. The dating of these seals is in the last third of the XIth c. This is perhaps the same Constantine Katakalon, who during Nikephoros Bryennios' usurpation in 1078 commanded the army of the Turkish contingent, on him see **Bryennios**, 271.16.

498. Κωνσταντῖνος Συναχηρεῖμ πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-21 mm. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller than the dies.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 648.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection DO 55. 65. 2677.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her chest.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | | . ΩΚΩΝ Π. | .. ΔΡΩΤΩ | CENAXE | PEIM

[+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Κων(σταντίν(ω) π[ροέ]δρῳ τῷ
Συναχηρεῖμ

499. Κωνσταντῖνος Συναχηρεῖμ (?) πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-21 mm. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller than the dies. Mostly the patronym did not print. The proposed completion is only one possible variant. There are others as well.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 649.

No parallels known.

Obv. Standing figure of a military saint, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΚΩΝ ΠΡΟ | ΔΡΩΤΩ | ...ΑΧ. |

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Κων(σταντίν(ω) προ[έ]δρῳ τῷ
[Σεν]αχ[ε]ρεῖμ]

The presumption is that we are dealing with two bullae of one person with identical titles, struck in different boulloteria.

500. Λέων Δούκας πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)

RHM-Pernik, no.353. Found in the stronghold near the town, square VI/281, depth 0.20-0.40 m on 14th July 1968. D. 21-21(18) 5 mm. Good imprint in a good state of preservation. Superb relief on the obverse. The reverse is a bit effaced.

Ed. **Юркова**, Перник, II, 120-121, табл. II.6; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.203.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Niketas holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ-NI-KH || T-A-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΠΡΟΕΔΡ' | ΤΩΔ8Κ | - Α -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντι προέδρ(ω) τῷ Δούκᾳ

501. Λέων Ν., πρόεδρος (last quarter of XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15093. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 89. Find-spot: the village of Fakija, Burgas region. D. 15-15.5 (15.5 ?) 3 mm. W. 3.32 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The last line probably recording the patronym did not print.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 152.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and resting his l. hand on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription on either side: Θ-Γ-Ε-Ο || Ρ-Γ' : 'Ο ἄ(γιος)

Γεόργ(ιος).

Rev. Inscription of three or four lines:

- + - | ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | Α'ΕΔΡΟ | ...

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Λέοντι (προ)έδρο

502-503. Μανουήλ Ζηλαλας (1070s-1080s)

502. RHM-Shumen, no. 14661. Found by a treasure-hunter with a metal detector in the stronghold near Dobri dol. D. 23-24 (20-22) 2.5 mm. Imprint incomplete. Parts of the dies did not print or are illegible. The patronym is the most difficult element to decipher.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Dobri dol, no. 15; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.224.

503. Private collection, same source as the preceding. D. 20-20 mm. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller than the die. The first line and the first two letters of the patronym did not print.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Dobri dol, no. 16; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.225.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns:|| Δ-ΟΡ..

Rev. Inscription of four lines.

a) | . . ΟΕΔΡ8ΜΑ | . 8ΗΑΤΟΝ | . ΗΑΛΑΗ

b) +CΦΡ.... | ΠΡΟΕΔΡ . . . | Ν8ΗΑΤΟΝ | ΖΗΑΛΑΗ

+Σφρ[αγίς] προέδρου Μανουήλ τοῦ Ζηλαλα

The reading remains uncertain due to the indistinct imprint. In his review Seibt (*BZ*, 101, S. 821) proposes [Φρούρει] προέδρον Μανουήλ τὸν Ζηλλάν(ην), τὸν Ζηλβάν(ην) or τὸν Ζηλλάν(ον). Obviously we should wait for the appearance of another better preserved specimen.

504. Μιχαήλ Ν., πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-19 mm. Incomplete imprint. Blank smaller than dies. Mostly the patronym did not print.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription in two columns:|| ΓΕ-ΩΡ-Γ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΓΡΑΦ | ΣΦΡΑΓΙ | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΠΡΟΕΔΡ | ΤΩ.Ν. |

+ Γραφ(ᾶς) σφραγί(ς) Μιχαήλ προέδρ(ου) τῷ

505. Μιχαήλ Λιπαρίτης πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)

RHM-Burgas, no. A-144. Purchased from Pomorie. D. 17-17 (over 17) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller than the size of the dies. The bulla itself is in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Анхило, № 10; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 401.

Parallels: Further two specimens struck in the same boulloterion as ours are preserved in the collections of the Athens Numismatic Museum (*Konstantopulos*, no 1091) and Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 55. 1. 4023).

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: .-NI-KO || Λ-A-OC

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | .ICA'ΕΔΡ | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΛΙΠΑΡΙΤ

[Σφραγί]ς (προ)έδρ(ου) Μιχαήλ Λιπαρίτ(ου)

506. Μουσέλιος Πακουριάνης πρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 25494. Find-spot: uncertain. Purchased through the General Department of Archives at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria. D. 21-23 (over 21) 3 mm. The blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies; as a result, parts of the depiction and inscription are out of the blank.

Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 536

Parallels: Another specimen from the same boulloterion is preserved in the Seyrig collection, no. 51

Obv. The Virgin seated on a high-backed throne. She holds a medallion of the Christ Child before her chest.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ΤΩΣΩ... | Μ8CΕΛ.. | ΠΡΟΕΔΡ. | ΤΩΠΑΚ8 | ..ΑΝΟ

[+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ [δούλ(ω) Μουσελ[ίω] προέδρ[ω] τῷ

Πακου[ρι]άνο

507. Πολύευκτος πρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)

Private collection (Al. Peikov from Veliko Turnovo). Find-spot: Silistra ? D. 14-17 (14) 3 mm. Incomplete

imprint, slightly off center, presumably due to looseness of the boulloterion. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ on her l. arm. Sigla: .|| Θ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΠΟΛΥ | .ΥΚΤΟΝ | .ΕΔΡΟΝ | .ΑΡΘΕΝ | ΚΕΠ.

[+]Πολύ[ε]υκτον [(προ)]έδρον [Π]άρθεν(ε) σκέπ[ε]

There is no sufficient data for identification with a personage from the narrative sources.

Three groups of seals bearing the name of Polyeuktos were found from the territory of Bulgaria. In addition to them, which not only bear the same name and iconographic subject, but also provide continuity in the titulature, there is a fourth group having belonged perhaps to the same individual as μάγιστρος κριτής τοῦ βήλου καὶ πραίτωρι τοῦ Ὀψικίου (see *Seibt-Zarnitz*, no. 2.2.8).

These four groups of seals outline the following cursus honorum that developed in the third quarter of the XIth c.:

a) βέστης;

b) μάγιστρος;

c) μάγιστρος, κριτής τοῦ βήλου καὶ πραίτωρι τοῦ Ὀψικίου;

d) πρόεδρος;

508. Προκόπιος πρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)

Private collection (S. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-20 (?) 3 mm. W. 6.256. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Δ-H || M-T'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΩCΩΔ' | ΠΡΟΚΟ | ΠΙΟΠΡΟ | ΕΔΡ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [τ]ῷ σῷ δ(ούλω) Προκοπίο προέδρ(ω)

γ) πρωτοβέστης

A new rank occupying the place between βέστης and βεστάρχης or between βεστάρχης and μάγιστρος. It was attested in written sources around 1060s. It derives from the office of βέστης, established by Nikephoros II (963-969) and is connected with the emperor's private wardrobe. In the taktikon of Escorial, it occupies the third position among the offices intended for eunuchs. It has an evolutionary development similar to the other effective offices and becomes a honorific title, which naturally leads to the appearance of protovestēs. Its last mention in written sources is from the early XIIth c.

Lit. Ebersolt, *Vestiarium*, 87-88; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 294; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*. 286-287)

509-513. Βασίλειος Γλαβᾶς πρωτοβέστης (1060s-1070s)

509. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18058. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-26 (21) 4 mm. W. 14.45 g. Once a good imprint, now damaged. The depiction and image were cut through with a sharp object.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 83; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 136.

510. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24549. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-24 (21) 5 mm. W. 15.6 g. Low-quality imprint. Half of the depiction and inscription was not printed. The blank itself was of low quality and irregular shape.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 84; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 137.

511. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24555. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-28 (?) 4 mm. W. 16.10 g. Good imprint; what is most characteristic is that it was struck over a bulla of the same dignitary but with the title πρωτοσπαθᾶριος-ὑπατος.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 85; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 138.

512. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 256. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 28-29 (?) 4 mm. W. 17.6 g. Its most characteristic feature is the lacking of almost any traces of the depiction and lettering. The reason and instrument for their obliteration is hard to explain, as well as whether they were printed at all.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 86; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 139.

513. RHM Shumen, no. 1208. Find-spot: Pliska. A fragment smaller than a half. D. 14-28 mm. W. 6.16 g. Once a good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Плиска*, № 7; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 140; Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 157.

The five bullae come from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus surmounted by a cross (l. hand). Sigla on either side: M - X.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- . - |+ APXI | CTPATIGE | ROHΘ'RACI | ΛEΙΩΠPΩT' | PECTHTΩ | ΓΛAPA
+ Ἀρχιστράτηγε βοήθει Βασιλείω πρω(ο)βέστη τῷ Γλαβᾶ

s) πρωτοβεστίτωρ

A derivative of βεστίτωρ. In the VIth c., βεστίτωρες were included in a school affiliated to the sacra vestes. In the IX c., it was a palace office for a person who helped the emperor while dressing and undressing. It gradually transformed into a title of a not very high rank. In our case, it most probably refers to a title of a dignitary affiliated to the given school with positions of the later protospatharios.

Lit. Ebersolt, *Vestiarium*, p.83; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 296, n. 50-51; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*. 236-237)

514. Αὐγούστινος πρωτοβεστίτωρ (VIII c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 32703. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-26.9 (23) 3.5 mm.
Unpublished.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

+ | ΘΕΟΤ | ΩΚΕΒΟ | ΗΘΗ | +

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΑΥΓΟΝ | CTHNΩ | Β'Α'ΒΕC | ΤΗΤΟ | ΡΗ

+ Θεοτώκε βοήθη Αὐγουστήνῳ (πρωτο)βεστήτορῳ

ι) πρωτοκουροπαλάτης

A derivative of κουροπαλάτης.

515-516 Χριστοφόρος Βασπρακανίτης πρωτοκουροπαλάτης (late XI c.)

515. Private collection (St. Bilik, Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-18 (15) 2.5 mm. W. 6.04 g. Incomplete imprint, but a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Билик, *Фамилии имена*, N 19; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 72.

No parallels known.

516. Historical Museum, Nova Zagora. Basic Stock no. 921- Settlement Mound, Diadovo. Found in the course of regular archaeological excavations of the medieval settlement above the Diadovo mound in 1999. D. 15-19 (15) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, slightly off center, and a bulla in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 73.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Christophoros standing, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand set on a shield resting on the ground. Vertical inscription: Θ-X-PI-CT-O || Φ.-PO-C

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a) . ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΡΙCΤΟΦ' | .ΚΟΡΟΠΑ | ΛΑΤΗΤΟΡ | .CΠΡΑΚΑ | ΝΙΤΗ

b) . . ΕΡ'Θ' | .ΡΙCΤΟΦ' | .ΚΟΡΟΠ | . . ΑΤΗΤΟΡ | . . ΠΡΑΚΑ | . . ΤΗ

[+] Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [Χ]ριστοφ(όρω) [(πρωτο)]κοροπαλάτῃ το Β[ασ]πρακανίτῃ

ιι) πρωτονοβελίσσιμος

A derivative of νοβελίσσιμος, an epithet to the title ceasar already from the time of Constantine I the Great (306-336). It is of a high rank and sacred. Until the XIth c., it was reserved only for the members of the imperial family. In the taktikon of Philotheos of 899, it is noted that its insignia is a purple chiton ornamented with gold and that an individual was honored with this rank by the emperor in person in the church of the Savior (see Oikonomides, *Listes*. 96-97).

The first violation of the canon is attested in 1042, when Michael V (1041-1042) honored his uncle, the eunuch Constantine, with the rank nobelissimos. An exception also is perhaps Alexios Komnenos, the future emperor, honored with it already in 1078 by Nikephoros III (1078-1081) for his military successes. In the early years of his reign, Alexios I (1081-1118), for his part, introduced many of his generals into the rank of nobelissimoi, thus it naturally developed into protonobelissimos (Bury, *System*, 35-36; Dölger, *Diplomatik*, 26-

33; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 292).

There are certain differences among investigators regarding the earliest mention of the title protonobelissimos. The name of Theodore Dalassenos as protonobelissimos is reported in a note dated to the reign of empress Eudokia (1067). According to the author of the prosopographic research on the Dalassenoi, some kind of mistake must have occurred and the information applies perhaps to another Theodore Dalassenos who lived in the XIIth c. and held the same title (**Cheyne**, *Dalassenoi*, no 11).

It is a title of a high rank during and after the reign of Alexios I Komnenos, but compared with the new ones introduced by this emperor, it is of a second rate (according to Kazhdan's classification, *Соч., состав*, 109-110).

It was most common in the second half of the XIIth c. as attested on documents from that period.

517. Ἀλέξιος Σιαούς πρωτονοβελίσσιμος (1090s)

Archaeological Museum, Sozopol. No specific information on its find-spot, but within the town's boundaries. D. 27-29 (22) 2-3 mm. Well-centered and complete imprint. The obverse has a remarkably good high relief. Its overall appearance attests to a work of an experienced engraver.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 650.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: .. || Θ̄V.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- + - | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΑΛΕΞΙΩ | Α'ΝΩΡΕΛΛ | CΙΜΩΤΩ | CΙΑ8C
+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἀλεξίω (πρωτο)νωβελλ(ι)σίμω τῷ Σιαούς

518-519. Γεώργιος Παλαιολόγος πρωτονοβελίσσιμος (1090s).

518. RHM-Pernik, no.934. Found in the course of excavations in the fortress near the town in square IX/91 at a depth of 0.40-0.60 m on 15th July 1977. D. 21-21 (over 21) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint both due to the smaller blank and the loosened boulloterion. The image and inscription on the reverse are slightly effaced.

Ed. **Юркова**, *Перник*, 129-123, табл. II.7; **Йорданов**, *Перник*, № 2; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 543.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear in his r. hand in front of his chest and a shield (l. hand). The plates of his armor clearly visible. Vertical inscription: Θ-ΓΕ-Ω-Ρ ||

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..Ω.ΓΙΟ. | .ΡΟΤΟΝΟΡ. | .ΗСНМОНТ. | ΠΑΛΕΟΛΟ | ΓΟΝ
[Γε]ώ[ρ]γιο[ν π]ρωτονοβ[ε]λ[ή]σημον τ[ὸ(ν)] Παλαιολόγον

519. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: unknown. D. 18-19 (19.5 ?) 3 mm. W. 5.8 g. Incomplete imprint. The first line of the text is out of the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 544.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Α-ΓΙ-Ο-Γ || .-ΩΡ-Γι-.....

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | ΓΕΩΡΓΙ. | Α'ΝΟΡΕΛ. | CΙΜΩΤΩ | ΠΑΛΕΟΛ | -ΓΩ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] Γεωργί[ω] (πρωτο)νοβελ[ι]σίμω τῷ Παλαιολ(ό)γω

520. Γεώργιος Παλαιολόγος πρωτονοβελίσσιμος (late XI c.).

Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: the village of Fakia, district of Burgas. D. 18-19 mm.

Incomplete imprint but a well-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 545.

Parallels: An unpublished specimen from DO. 58. 106. 3131.

Obv. Between two borders of dots, the inscription:ΗΘΕΙΓΕ..

In center, bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her chest. Sigla:

Μ || Θ̄.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | ΝΩΡΕΛΙ | CΙΜΩΤΩ | ΠΑΛΑΙ. | ΛΟΓΩ

[+Θ(εοτό)κε β]οήθει Γε[ωργ(ίω) πρωτο]νωτβελισίμω τῷ Παλαιολόγω

520A-B. Ρουπένιος Θεόδωρος πρωτονοβελίσσιμος (late XI c.)

a. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17007. Find-spot: the stratega of Preslav. D. 21-22.5 (18) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. Some letters were not printed perhaps due to looseness of the dies in the boulloterion

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 546; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 601.

b. Historical Museum, Dobrich. Find-spot: Silistra. D.22-23 mm. Incomplete imprint as above, but in a poor state of preservation. Broken in two, with fragments missing.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 602.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Equal-arm cross occupying the whole field. In the quarters: CΦΡ- ΓΙC|| .ΟΝ' - ΡΛ.

Rev. Inscription of three lines: + ΘΕΟ | ΔΟΡ8Τ8 | ΡΟΝΠ

+ Σφρ(α)γίς [(πρωτ)]ον(ω)β(ε)λ(ι)[σ(ίμου) Θεοδόρου τοῦ Ρουπ(ενοῦ)]

521. Λέων Καζάνης πρωτονοβελίσσιμος (XII c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. 1278, purchased from Silistra. D. 21-22.5 (over 21) 3.5 mm. W. 6.98 g. Incomplete imprint since the blank was smaller than or equal to the size of the dies. The centering was likewise imperfect. The bulla itself is in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, IV, № 12; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 246.

Parallels: Two bullae struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the collections of the Hermitage (M-8927, see **Лихачев**, *Богоматери*, 141-142, рис.327; **Шандровская**, *Искусство*, II, с. 142, № 778) and Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 58. 106. 3202, unpublished).

Obv. The Crucifixion. Christ crucified on the martyr's cross. Below him, the Virgin (at l.) and St. John (at r.).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

СΦΡΑΓΙC | ΛΕΟΝΤΟCΑ' | ΝΩΡΕΛΛΙC | Μ8Τ8Κ. | ΖΑΝΗ

Σφραγὶς Λέοντος (πρωτο)νωβελλισ(ί)μου τοῦ Κ[α]ζάνη

521A. Μιχαήλ Ἀμάστριδος πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (XI-XII c.)

In a private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-19 (16) 3 mm. W. 5.60 g. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 32.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans without a medallion. Sigla: $\overline{M} || . : M(\acute{\eta}\tau\eta\rho) [\Theta(\epsilon\omicron\upsilon)]$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΙΧΑΗΛ | ...ΕΛΙ | ..ΜWTONA | .ACTPH | ..

[+]Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [Μ]ιχαήλ [(πρωτο)νοβ]ελι[σί]μω τὸν Ἀ[μ]αστρή[δι]

522-523. Μιχαήλ Αὐλῶνα πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (XI-XII c.)

522. Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov, Elkhovo). Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa. D. 16-17 mm. Despite the small blank, almost all the letters were struck up, except for some from the last two lines. Specimen in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no.38; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 70.

523. Private collection (Ivan Yotov, Yambol). Find-spot: stronghold near the village of Melnitsa. D.19-19 mm. Poorly damaged specimen which might have been an incomplete imprint. From the available letters we may surmise that the seal belonged to the same dignitary Michael Avlonas.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 71.

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: .. || $\overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) +| ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | Α'ΝΟΡΕΛΗ | CΙΜ'ΤΟΝ. | . ΛΟΝΑ

b) +| . . ΧΑΗ . | . . ΥΡΕΛ Ι | |

+ Μιχαήλ (πρωτο)νοβελισίμ(ω) τὸν [Αὐ]λωνα

524-525. Τατοῦλης Πακουριανὸς πρωτονωβελίσσιμος ὁ ἄρχων τῶν ἀρχόντων (ca 1100)

524. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 6039. Formerly in the collection of V. Stankov from Batak, no. 39. Found by a treasure-hunter in the vicinity of Plovdiv at the road fork to the village of Markovo. D. 26-27 (23) 3 mm. Once a complete good imprint. Currently erased in the lower part.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Нобелисими, № 12, 118-119; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 536

Parallels: **Cheynet**, *Zacos*, III, no. 129.

Obv. St. Theodore standing, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand set on a shield resting on the ground. Vertical inscription visible at l. and r.: ..-ΘΕ-. || ΔΩ-P-O-C : [῾Ο ἄ(γ)ιος]

Θε[ό]δωρος

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΑΤ8ΛΗΑ' | Ν8ΡΕΛΙCΙMS | ΑΡΧΟΝΤ'ΤΩΝ | ΑΡΧΟΝΤΩΝ | ΤΩ..
Κ8Ρ | ... Ω

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Τατοῦλη (πρωτο)νουβελισίμ(ω) ἄρχοντ(ι) τῶν ἀρχόντων
τῷ Π[ακ]ουρ[ιαν]ῷ

525. RHM-Shumen, no. 15503. Formerly in the collection of V. Stankov from Batak, no. 227. Find-spot: village of Batkun region of Pazardzhik. D. 25.5-27 (22) 3 mm. W. 12. 70. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Obv. St. Theodore standing as above. Vertical inscription visible at l. and r.:

..-ΘΕ-. || ΔΩ-P-O-C : [῾Ο ἄ(γ)ιος] Θε[ό]δωρος

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΤΑΤ8ΛΗC | Α'ΝΩΡΕΛΙCΙM' | .ΑΡΧΩΤΩΝΑΡ | ΧΟΝΤΩΝΟΠΑ |

ΚΟΝΡΙΑΝΟ' | - * -

Τατοῦλης (πρωτο)νωβελίσσιμ(ος) [ό] ἄρχω(ν) τῶν ἀρχόντων ὁ Πακουριανὸς(ς)

The second specimen was struck in a boulloterion unknown to date. The fact that both specimens were found in the region of Plovdiv and Pazardzhik relates them to a common addressee here. It may have been the monastery founded by Gregory Bakourianos?

526. Ν., πρωτονωβελίσσιμος (XI-XII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 27. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-28.5 mm, W. 12.98 g. Good imprint. One third missing.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. John the Baptist standing. In the field, inscription of horizontal lines:

Θ- ΙΩΟ - ΠΔΡΟ - ΜΟC. It seems that another standing figure was represented in the missing part.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..Κ.. | ..ΔΩΡΑ' | . Ω.ΕΛΙCΙM' | ..CΤΟΜΗΡ | ΝΟV

The missing letters render the overall reading impossible. From the preserved text, it can be assumed that it applies to an unknown protonobelissimos or nobelissimos.

ν) πρωτονωβελισσιμοῦπέρτατος

A rank title obtained by the combination of πρωτονωβελίσσιμος and ὑπέρτατος recorded in the documentary sources between 1156 and 1206. It is definitely higher than protonobelissimos and is a result of the fashion in the last quarter of the XIIth c. of adding the epithet ὑπέρτατος meaning 'higher, prime, superior in rank' to some higher titles

Lit. **Dölger**, *Diplomatik*, 32; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, 296-297.

527. Κωνσταντῖνος Μανιάκης πρωτονωβελισσιμοῦπέρτατος (second half, XII c.)

Private collection. It was presented to me for documentation by Emil Kosev (Shumen) on 30th April 1989. The information is that it originates from the region of Topolovgrad, which would point to the village of Melnitsa. D. 33-35 mm. The strike is not centered and the imprint is weak. Parts of the die were not imprinted, probably because of a defect in the boulloterion. This renders its entire reading problematic. Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 35; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 422a. No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots.

+ CΙΔΗΡΟ | ΕΚΤΥΠΩΝ.. | ΚΛΕΙCΜΟΛV | ...ΝΤΟV | ...ΙΑΚ8

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots.

+ ΤΩΝΓΡΑΦΩΝ | ΚΩΝCΤΑΝΤΙΝ8 | VΠΕΡΤΑΤ8ΔΕ | ΠΡΩΤΟΝ... | ΛΙCΙΜΟ.

+ Σιδήρ(ον) ἐκ τύπων [ή] κλεις μολυ[βδί]ν(η) τοῦ [Μαν]ιάκου

τῶν γραφῶν Κωνσταντίνου ὑπερτάτου δέ πρωτον[ωβελ]λίσιμο[υ]

ω) πρωτοπρόεδρος

528. Μαρίας Δαλασσινή πρωτοπροεδρίσσα (second half, XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14820. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain, generally from Southern Bulgaria. D. 24-25 (20) 4 mm. W. 8.72 g. Once a superb imprint, of which now two portions are cut.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 155.

Parallels: Further three specimens are known preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58. 106. 1136 and 55. 1. 4546) and in Zacos Collection, III. They were struck in the same boulloterion as ours. On them, see **Cheyne**, Dalassenoi, 100-101, no. 18.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{M} \parallel \overline{\Theta}$: Μ(ήτηρ) Θ(εοῦ).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΑΡΙΑΑτ | ..ΟΕΔΡΙC | ..ΔΑΛ. | CΙNH

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) [Μ]αρία (πρω)τ(ο)[πρ]οεδρίσ(σα) [τῇ] Δαλ[α]σ(σ)ίνη

Other two specimens, on which only the name Maria Dalassena is written out, are preserved in the collections: Shaw 1288 (no. 1120) and DO. 55. 1. 4545 (on them, see **Cheyne**, Dalassenoi, 100-101, no. 18).

Maria is unknown among the XIth-century representatives of the Dalassenoi.

528A. Ευστάθιος Κατακυνος (?) πρωτοπρόεδρος (last quarter, XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-22 (17) 3 mm. W. 6.50 g. Good imprint. Struck with a sharp object on the obverse, which has pressed the last letters on lines 5 and 6 of the reverse. This renders the deciphering of the patronym difficult.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 306.

No parallels known

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), his l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: Θ-Γ-Ε || Ω-Ρ-Γ' : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Γεώργ(ιος).

Rev. Inscription in six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΕVCTΑΘΙ | WΠΡΩΤΟ | ΠΡΟΕΔΡΩ | ΤΩΚΑΤΑ | ΚV..

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Εὔσταθίῳ πρωτοπροέδρῳ τῷ Κατακυ[νῷ]

529-536. Θεόδωρος Δοβρομυρός πρωτοπρόεδρος (1070s-1080s)

529. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18565. Find-spot: Strategy of Preslav. D. 16-17 (15 ?) 4 mm. W. 4.60 g. Incomplete imprint, due to slipping of the blank in the boulloterion.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 87; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 176.

530. RHM-Shumen, no. 14 203. Purchased from N. Georgiev and originating probably from the same find-spot. D. 15-16 (15 ?) 3.5 mm. W. 5.40 g. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller in diameter than the dies.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 88; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 177; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 154.

531. Private collection in the town of Pernik. Find-spot: uncertain, probably comes from Preslav. D. 19-19 mm. W. 6.60 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 179.

532. RHM-Shumen, no. 14827. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav ! D. 15-16 mm. W. 4.94 g.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, nos. 178; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 155

533. RHM-Shumen, no. 15138. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 134. Find-spot: Stronghold near Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 15-16.5 (15) 4.5 mm. W. 5.22 g.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 156

534. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 14-16 mm. W. 5.30 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 180.

535-36. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-16 mm; 17-17 mm. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 181-182.

The eight bullae were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Another unpublished specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the collection of the Hermitage (M-5780).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla on either side:

$\overline{M} \parallel \overline{\Theta} V$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟ | Α'ΠΡΟΕΔΡ' | ΤΩΔΟΡP | ΜΙΡ'

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδώρο (πρω)προέδρ(ω) τῷ Δοβρ(ο)μυρ(ῶ)

The bullae presented here (nos. 387-394) are from the same dignitary with his title of vestarches.

537. Κωνσταντῖος Χοιροσφόκτης πρωτοπρόεδρος (1070s-1090s)

Private collection (S. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: Southern Bulgaria, Plovdiv-Chirpan region. ? D. 18-19(16)3.5 mm. W. 8.055 g. Incomplete and poorly-preserved imprint, especially the obverse.

Ed. Билик, Фамилни имена, № 8; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 751.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
..... | .ΩCΩΔ' | .ΩNA'A'Ε | ΔΡΩ

Rev. Inscription of three lines:
ΤΩΧΟΙ | ΡΟCΦΑ | ΚΤΗ
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τ]ῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) [Κ]ων(σταντίνῳ) (πρωτο)(προ)έδρῳ τῷ
Χοιροσφάκτῃ

538. Μιχαήλ Σολομῶν πρωτοπρόεδρος (late XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 25372. Find-spot: Sozopol. D. 14-25.5 (20-21?) 3 mm. Unclear imprint.
The letters of the text are indistinct and presumably subsequently damaged. Half imprint, besides, in a poor state of preservation, corroded and mechanically damaged. All this renders the overall reading of the text extremely difficult. We have restored the missing letters following the specimen cited below.
Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 666.
No parallels known.

Obv. Indistinct image of St. Michael? He holds an object resembling a globus cruciger.
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ΚΕ.. | ΜΙΧΑ.. | Α'ΠΡ.. | ΤΩC... | Ω..
+Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει)] Μιχα[ήλ] (πρωτο)πρ[οέδ(ρῳ)] τῷ Σ[ολ(ο)μ]ῷ[ντι]

539. Νικηφόρος Σαραντηνός πρωτοπρόεδρος (last third, XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Hisarya. Find-spot: generally the town. D. 25-26(21)? mm. Good imprint and a bulla in good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 643.
Parallels: An unpublished specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Fogg, A. M. collection no. 1855.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription in two columns: O-A-ΓΙ-O-S || ΔΗ-ΜΙ-ΤΡ-ΙΟ-C
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ | ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' | ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡ' | .ΠΡΟΕΔΡ' || ΤΩCΑΡΑΝ | ΤΗΝΩ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Νικηφόρ(ῳ) [(πρωτο)]έδρ(ῳ) τῷ Σαραντηνῷ

On the person of Nikephoros Sarantenos, his seals and the rest of the representatives of this family, see Jordanov, *F. Names*, nos. 587-589

540. Νικόλαος Σινέσιος πρωτοπρόεδρος (third quarter, XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28687 (from the former collection of Angel Borisov Kotsev). Find-spot: uncertain, generally southern Bulgaria. D. 15-17 mm. Incomplete imprint. The last line (rev.) is unclear, rendering the reading of the patronym uncertain.
Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 687.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-N-I || Κ-o-ΛΑ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ΚΕ.. | ΝΙΚΟΛ. | Α'ΑΕΔΡ. | ΤΩCΥΝΕ | -CH-
+Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει)] Νικολ[ά(ῳ)] (πρωτο)(προ)έδρ[ῳ] τῷ Συνεσ[ή(ῳ)]

х) πρωτοσέβαστος

A derivative of σεβαστός, see below.

541. Ἀδριανός Κομνηνός πρωτοσέβαστος (1081-1105)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30075. Found at the top of the citadel near the village of Zlati Voyvoda, square 43, by treasure-hunters with a metal detector in 1993. D. 23-24 (21)3 mm. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla, with the exception of the last line of the text.
Ed. Йорданов, Севаст, № 38; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 324.
Parallels: From the same boulloterion as ours: in the Athens Numismatic Museum (see Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 639, no. 1; Konstantopulos, no. 499); in the auctions Münzentrum Köln, 31, no. 1390 and Muller-Sollingen, 73, 1993, no. 489; Fogg, A. M. no. 581. From a different boulloterion: those published in Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 2708 a-b.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: Θ- ΓΕ || Ω-ΡΓΙ-O'

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:
+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔΔΛ' | ΑΔΡΙΑΝΩ | ΠΡΩΤΟCΕ || ΡΑΤΤΩΤΩ || ΚΟΜΝΗΝ | ..
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Ἀδριανῷ πρωτοσέβαστῷ τῷ Κομνη[νῷ]

у) πρωτοσπαθάριος

It derives from σπαθάριος and translated literally means the best, first of the spatharioi. It was attested as an office in ca. 692 and rather soon after that (already in the VIIIth c.) developed into a title. It was in use down to the XIth c. inclusive. It became obsolete in the late XIth and the early XIIth centuries. During various periods, it occupied different places in the rank lists, the tendency being of its gradual ousting. That refers mostly for the XIth c., when many new titles were introduced.

It is found on the sphragistic monuments in the following variants:

- 1) β' πρωτοσπαθάριος or only πρωτοσπαθάριος. Certain chronological differences could also be observed with them. The latter variant prevailed in the XIth c.
- 2) πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου is a rank higher than the ordinary πρωτοσπαθάριοι and is connected with their service in the renown Golden Room in the Palace. Hence, they were an honorary body of guards.
- 3) πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν. Their title is connected with service in one of the palace rooms (see Janin, *Cple Byz.*, p. 115; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 299)]
- 4) πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος, a combination which came into being in 1030s-1040s and occupied a position between protospatharios and patrikios.

5) πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ μαγλαβίου. on them see here

5) πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῆς ἐταιρείας on them see here

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, p. 27; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, II, 99-131; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 297, n. 55-57; **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S. 305.

ya) β'πρωτοσπαθάριος

542. Βαάνης β'πρωτοσπαθάριος (840s-850s)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 25315. Find-spot: on the sea coast in Sozopol. D. 29-31 (?)3 mm. Although the seal is almost completely preserved, the imprint is nevertheless not complete. The surface is damaged with corrosion.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Сонопол*, № 1.

Parallels: **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, no. 166, struck with the same pair of dies.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-Ω

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

. + . | RAANH | R'A'CPA | ΘAPIΩ | . + .

+Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Βαάνη β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρίῳ

In the publications cited above, the owner of the seal affixed to the correspondence to Sozopolis can be identified with the Armenian Vahan. He is known from various narrative sources (for an abbreviated information on his life, see **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 180, 340-347).

Βαάνης πατρίκιος καὶ πραιπόσητος also assisted at the synod of 861, when patriarch Ignatios was overthrown (see *P.G.*, 105, 517B (*Vita Ignatii*)).

During the turbulent events around the removal of the caesar Bardas, Vahan sided with the future Emperor Basil I and retained his position of praepositos with the new emperor as well (see **Vogt**, *Basile*, 78.159-160, 218-22).

At the synod of 869, when Photios in his turn was overthrown and Ignatios was reinstated as a patriarch, Vahan in his capacity as πατρίκιος καὶ πραιπόσητος voiced the emperor's will (see **Mansi**, XVI: 18D; 19DE; 27 BC; 34 AE; 37 CD; 44 C; 54 B; 55E; 56 D; 75 A; 97 E- 100B).

There are two extant letters of Patriarch Photios addressed to Βαάνης πραιπόσητος καὶ πατρίκιος (see **Photius**, *Epistulae*, no. 92.115).

The following facts attest to his closeness with the imperial court:

a) in 871, during the baptizing ceremony of the emperor's son and future patriarch Stephanos, he carried him on his arms from the church of Hagia Sophia to the Palace (see **Leon Gramatikos**, 254.8 f).

b) in 872, during the emperor's absence from Constantinople, he was left in the capital to perform some of his duties (*De Cer.*, I, App., p. 503).

Several groups of seals associated with the person of Vahan are also known:

a) in his capacity as ὑπατος καὶ νοτάριος τοῦ β'βεστιάρχου and when he sent his correspondence to Sozopolis (see no. 905).

b) πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ὑπατος (**Konstantopoulos**, no. 577);

c) πατρίκιος, πραιπόσητος καὶ β'σακελλάριος (**Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 752);

The data from narrative sources and sphragistic monuments allow to propose the

following cursus honorum of Vahan:

1. ὑπατος καὶ νοτάριος τοῦ β'βεστιάρχου (840s)

2. β'πρωτοσπαθάριος (840s-850s)

3. πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ὑπατος (850s-860s)

4. πατρίκιος καὶ πραιπόσητος (860s-870s)

5. πατρίκιος, πραιπόσητος καὶ β'σακελλάριος (870s)

The ascertainment that at least two letters were received in Sozopolis in the early stage of Vahan's career gives rise to the following questions. Who were they addressed to? If in the first case we can assume that it was connected with his official duties, was it so in the second case, when only his title was inscribed?

No single answer is possible. In the first case, he is indeed reported with his position of notarios in the imperial private treasury, but that might be the way he represented himself in society. The same holds true for the second case too. Only his title of imperial protospatharios is indeed inscribed on his seal. However, besides being a title-bearer, he had certain duties in the court ceremony, and having in mind that he was a eunuch, in this case too, his correspondence may well be in connection with his service in the Palace.

543. Βασίλειος Τζηντζιλύκης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2383. Discovered by the well of the atrium in the Round Church in 1938. D. 23-23 (20) 1.5 mm. W. 7.65 g. Well-centered imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 92; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 712.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus cruciger (l. hand). Sigla: M|I - X|A.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- . - |+RACI | ΛΙΟΑ'СΠΑ | ΘΑΡ'Τ'ΤΖΗΝ | ΤΖΙΑΔΚ' | - . -

+Βασιλίο (πρωτο)σπαθαρίῳ τῷ Τζηντζιλύκῃ

544. Γεώργιος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος (X- XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I-863. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 22-24.5(21) 19 mm. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint. Slightly corroded surface.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, IV, № 3

No parallels known.

Obv. Indeterminate bust of a beardless saint (St. George ?) holding a martyr's cross before him. No vertical inscriptions visible.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΓΕОР | ΓΗΟΡ'Α' | СΠΑΘΑ | ΡΗΩ

+Γεοργίῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρήῳ

545-545a. Γρηγόριος Κλιβανας πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

545. RHM-Shumen, no. 13581. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Plausible find-spot:

Preslav (Silistra is also possible). D. 15-15.6 (12.5?) 3.5 mm. W. 5.29 g. Incomplete imprint and specimen in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 161

545a. Private collection. It was showed to me by N. Nikolov, a teacher from Preslav, in the summer of 2006. The owner is a treasure hunter from Preslav. Plausible find-spot: Preslav. D. 20-23 mm. It is in a better state of preservation than the above and allows for an overall reading.
Unpublished
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons up to the second arms. Remains of a circular inscription: + 8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. . PH | . OP' . CΠA | .AP' . ΚΛ . | RANA
+ ΓPH | ΓOP'A'CΠA | .AP'TKΛ . | RANA
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ[ούλ(ω) [Γ]ρη[γ]ορ(ίω) [(πρωτο)]σπα[θ]αρ(ίω) [τ(ῷ)]
Κλ[ι]βάνα

I do not know of such a family name. Its etymology should most probably be related to the term κλιβάννα, (attested in **Theophanes Confessor**, *Chronographia*, 397.26) or to a kind of defensive weapon κλιβάνια. For the origin and encounter in sources, see **McGeer**, *E. Sowing the Dragon's teeth: Byzantine Warfare in the Tenth Century*, Washington, 1995, p. 67.

546. Εὐφύμιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X- XI c.)

Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: Preslav or Silistra. D. 23-23 (12-18) 2.5 mm.
Unsuccessful imprint. Part of the monogram and some letters did not print. Chipped in the upper half.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Circle of pellets within double border of dots. In center, cruciform invocative monogram; in the quarters : ΤΩ-ΘΩ || Δ.-ΛΩ.

Rev. Circle of pellets within double border of dots. In center, an inscription of four lines:

+ ΕΥΦΙ | ΜΗΟΡ'Α' | CΠAΘ. | ΡΗΩ
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δ[ούλ]ω Εὐφίμηο β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρήω

547. Θεόδωρος Κασταμονίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia ? I do not know of its current place of preservation. I have not had any access to the original. Found in the course of sounding excavations under the supervision of architect P. Karasimeonov near the brick wall of the Palace in Pliska in 1939. D.21-21(20?) 2 mm. The imprint is incomplete and the bulla itself is chipped around the circumference.
Ed. Герасимов, Плиска № 6; Йорданов, Плиска, № 20; Jordanov, F. Names, no.297.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from the base. The circular

inscription with the invocation is partially preserved.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΕΟΔΩ | .Α'CΠAΘ | . ΩΚACT. | MONI
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Θεοδώ[ρ(ω)] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [τ]ῷ Καστ[α]μονίτι

548-552. Θεόδωρος Κλάδων πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

548. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no.22912. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18.5-21.5 (over 20) 3.1 mm. W. 9.05 g. Incomplete imprint, which rendered the reading of the text difficult.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 93; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 314.

549. RHM-Yambol, no. II 5805. Passed on by an owner of a metal detector from the town in 1991. Find-spot: presumably the region. D. 23-26(?)3 mm. Also incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 315.

550. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-22 mm. Also incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 316.

551. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Found in the course of archaeological excavations in the fortress of the town of Silistra in 1990, no.1162. D. 20-21(?)3 mm. Also incomplete imprint, but allowing to accept the reading of the first two specimens with greater certainty.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 317.

552. Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found in the course of excavations of the so-called Mostich's Church supervised by Prof. K. Popkonstantinov in 2006. Its documentation is missing.
Unpublished
The five bullae were struck in different boulloteria or pairs of dies. It is clear however that they belong to one and the same person.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-N-I || K-O-Λ. Circular inscription within a border of dots: +ΚΕ..... ΤΩΘΩΔ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a-c) ΘΕΟΔΩ | .Α'CΠAΘ | ΤΩΚΛΑ | ΔΟΝΙ
d) +ΘΕ. | ΔΟΡ'Α'CΠ | Θ'ΤΟΚ.. | ΔΩΝΗ
+Κ(ύρι)ε [βοήθ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δ[ούλ]ω Θεοδώρ(ω) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) τῷ
Κλάδωνη

553-554. Θεόδωρος Τατούκας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

553. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20793. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav.D. 27-28 (24) 2.5 mm. W. 12.75 g. Superb imprint in an excellent state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав № 94; Jordanov, F. Names, no.707.

554. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17628. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav.D. 23-27 (24) 2 mm. W. 5.50 g. Low-quality imprint, struck over another bulla with a text partially deciphered.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав № 95; Jordanov, F. Names, no.708.
The both specimens were struck in a same bulloterion
No parallels known.

Obv. Ten radial rays with a ω at the center, each ray terminating with a letter. When joined together, they give the invocation: KER'TWC ω ΔΛ ω

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΕΟ | ΔΩΡΟΡ'Α' | ΣΠΑΘ'ΤΟΤ' | ΟΥΚΑ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θει) τῷ σῷ δ(ού)λῳ Θεοδώρο β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) το

Τ(ατ)ούκκ

In his review, W. Seibt assumed the possibility of a variant reading of the family name as Τζούκκ, since there is a similar modern name (BZ, 101, S.823). It is not impossible because after the letter T a small loop is visible which, provided it is not just a small air-pocket in the die, could be accepted as a ligature writing of T +ζ.

555. Ἰωάννης Ταρσίτης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17641. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22.5-25(20) 2 mm. Well-centered imprint, but some letters did not print, rendering the reading of the patronym problematic.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав № 96; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 699.

Parallels: Another specimen from the same boulloterion is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO.55.1.3349).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her breast. No sigla visible.

Remains of a circular inscription: + ΘΚ...Δ...

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΙΩΑ | ΝΝΗΡ'Α' | ΣΠΑΘΑ | Ρ'ΩΤΑΡ | .ΙΤΗ.

+Θ(εοτό)κ[ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ] δ[ούλῳ] Ἰωάννη β'(πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίῳ) ὦ

Ταρ[σ]ίτη[ς]

556. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (IX - X c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28695. Find-spot: the region of Haskovo or Plovdiv. D. 25-27 (22) 4-5 mm. Bulla in a good shape, but the imprint itself is off-centered.

Unpublished.

Parallel: Zacos, Seals, II, no. 197 struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. In each of the lower quarters, a six-rayed star. Circular inscription within double border of dots beginning at 12 o'clock: +..... ΤΩC ω | ΔΟΝΛ ω + * *

Rev. Inscription of four lines and tendril:

+ ΚΩNC | ΤΑΝΘΝΑ | Κ'Ρ'Α'ΣΠΑΘ | ΑΡΙΩ

+ [Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κωνσταντηνάκ(ω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρίῳ

The name Constantinakos, according to some investigators, is a diminutive form of Constantine, but since it is inscribed on the seal, the owner identified himself through it and not through the name Constantine.

The dating of the present seal is generally to the late IXth and the early Xth centuries. Seals of Constantinakos, imperial deacon and skevophilax, dated in the IXth c. are known in

the literature (Laurent, Corpus, V.2, no. 1108; Zacos, Seals, I, no. 1798).

It is hard to assume that he and the owner of our seal is one and the same person. In the one case, we have a cleric and in the other, a secular person.

Byzantine chronicles report that during the Bulgarian-Byzantine war in 893/894, the quaestor Constantinakos was sent to Symeon to conduct the negotiations (Leo Gramaticus, 268, 2-4; Scylitzes, Wortely, p. 98; for the chronology and events, see Божилов, Симеон Велики, с. 90).

The coincidence of names and time brings forward the following question: is it possible to identify the owner of the present seals with the envoy to Symeon from 893/894?

Seals of Constantine, imperial protospatharios and quaestor dated to the early Xth c. are known in the literature. Their publisher (Laurent, Corpus, II, no. 1103) assumes that it is the same Constantinakos mentioned above, putting forward the argument that this is the diminutive of Constantine. I have paid attention to this proposition above. Since this envoy was known to the chroniclers as Constantinakos, this name should likewise be inscribed on his seals.

From the two groups of seals of a cleric and protospatharios presented above, the protospatharios is more likely to be identified with the envoy to Symeon. The office of the quaestor involves administering the law, editing the emperor's novels, etc. and is secular (see Oikonomides, Listes, 321-322; Guiland, Le questeur, 78-104; Laurent, Corpus, II, 605-606).

557. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum Sofia, no. 185. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 23-25 mm. Incomplete imprint. The first line remained out of the blank.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist holding a cross over his l. shoulder.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | ΤΩC ω .. | ΚΩΝΑ'СΠ | ΘΑΡΙΩ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ [δούλῳ] Κων(σταντίνῳ) (πρωτο)σπαθαρίῳ

558. Κωνσταντῖνος Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

Private collection (A. Hadgikostov from Stara Zagora). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-20 mm. The obverse is in a poor state of preservation and one has the wrong impression that the representation is of a military saint with a spear and a shield. The imprint on the reverse is complete, but the last line is indistinct, thus rendering the reading of the patronym difficult. If I accept literally what is visible: ΤΟ ΗΑΤΑ, ΤΟ ΗΑΞΑ or ΤΟ ΗΑΓΑ, I cannot associate it with any familiar patronym.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΚΩΝΑ' | ΣΠΑΘΑΡΙ | ΤΟΗΑ..

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Κων(σταντίνῳ) (πρωτο)σπαθαρί(ῳ) το 'Ηα[....]

559-560. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος- πατρίκιος (X c.)

559. RHM-Shumen, no. 14683. Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 23-24 (20) 2 mm. W. 6.6 g. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Девет-Addenda. no. 4; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 158.

560. RHM-Shumen, no. 14684. Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 23-24 (20) 2.5 mm. W. 7.9 g. Incomplete imprint. The first line of the inscription remained out of the blank. Bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Девет-Addenda. no. 5; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 159.
The two specimens were struck in a same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Traces of a circular inscription:

ΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a) + ΛΕΩ | ΝΤΟCΤΟΝ | ΠΑ | Ρ'ΑCΠΑΘ . | | . . .
b) | . ΤΟCΤΟΝ | ΠΑΝΕΥΦΙΜ | Ρ'ΑCΠΑΘΑ' | ΠΑΤΡ . | ΚΗΩ
+ Λέωντος τοῦ πανεὐφίμ(ίου) β'(πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίω) πατρ[ι]κήω

561. Λέων Ἀγιοαποστολίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15114. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 22-22 (20) 3 mm. W. 6.54 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 162.
No parallels known.

Obv. Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ | ΛΟΓ8C | CΦΡΑΓΙ | ΖΩΤΟΝΑ' | CΠΑΘΑ | ΡΙΟΝ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΛΕΟΝ | ΤΟCΦΗΜΙ | Τ8ΑΓΙΟΑ | ΠΟCΤΟ | ΛΙΤΟΝ
+ Λόγους σφραγίζω τοῦ πρωτοσπαθαρίου Λέοντος φημι τοῦ
Ἀγιοαποστολίτου

562-564. Μανουήλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X - XI c.)

562. Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 27-27 (17) 3.2 mm. Bulla in a good state of preservation. Punctured in the lower half. Imprint of a good quality but made over another bulla.
Unpublished.

563. Private collection (Nikolai Nikolov from Razgrad). Offered for purchase at the Historical Museum, Shumen. The seller claimed that the bulla had been found in the stronghold near the village of Tsar Asen, Silistra region. D. 21-21 (17.3) 2.5 mm, 5.62 g. Complete imprint in an excellent state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 164

564. Private collection from Stara Zagora. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-23 (17) 3 mm. Complete imprint in an

excellent state of preservation.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I. 30); in the quarters : ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΜΑΝΟ | ΗΛΡ'Α'С | ΠΑΘΑ | ΡΗΩ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Μανο(υ)ήλ β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρήω

565. Μιχαήλ Ἐξαμιλίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

Private collection. Offered for purchase at the National Historical Museum, Sofia, through the police. D. 20-24 mm. Incomplete imprint which makes the overall reading difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 214.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ before her.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΜΙΧΑΗ. | Α'СΠΑΘ' | ΕΞΑΜΙ | ΛΙΤΗC

Μιχαή[λ] (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) [ό]Ἐξαμιλίτης

566. Νικήτας or Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1957. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 13-25 (20) 2.5 mm, W. 4.41 g. Half of an incomplete imprint.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Part of the bust of an indeterminate saint.

Rev. Remains of the inscription of four lines:

... ΗΚ. | Ρ'Α' . | . . . Α . |

[+ Ν]ηκ[ητα] or [+ Ν]ηκ[ηφόρ(ω)] β'(πρωτο)[σπαθ]α[ρ(ίω)]

566A. Ρωμανός Βλατοποδης πρωτοσπαθάριος (XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 14-15 (14) 2 mm. W. 2.5 g. A well-centered specimen in a superb state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 114.
Parallels: Two unpublished specimens struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the DO collection. 58. 106. 3770; DO. 55. 2632.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans, holding a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: .. || ΘV:
[Μ(ήτη)ρ] Θε(ο)ῷ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΟΜΑΝΩ | Α'СΠΑΘΑΡ' | ΤΩΝΡΛΑ | ΤΟΠΟΔ'

+ Θε(ο)τόκε β(οή)θ(ει) Ρωμανῷ (πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίω) τῶν Βλατοποδη

567. Ῥωμανὸς Τριαδιτζίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 4564. Found in the fortress near the village of Zlati Voyvoda in 1987. D. 24.5-25 (23) 4 mm. W. 7.23 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 2; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 727.

No parallels known.

Obv. Superb bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus cruciger (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.ΚΕ.. | ΤΩCΩΔ. | ΡΩΜΑΝΟ. | .CΠΑΘΑΡ' | .ΟΤΡΙΑΔΙ | ΤΖΗΟΤΙ
[+]Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δ[ού(λῳ)] Ῥωμανο [β'(πρωτο)]σπαθαρ(ίῳ) [τ]ο
Τριαδιτζίτη

568. Ursus imperialis protospatharius (911-932)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest? (formerly in a private collection). Found in the region of Kalarash-Silistra before 1938, which means in Dristra. D. 20-21 (13) 3-4 mm. Well-centered and well-executed specimen.

Ed. **Banescu**, *Colectie inedite*, no. 4.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cross potent on three steps. Two radiant rays come out of the arm crossing. Two floral ornaments different from cross-with-fleurons type arise from the base of the lower step.

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ | VRSO | IMPER' | PRO'SP | +
+ Urso(s) imper(ialis) pro(to)sp(atharius) +

Its publisher assumes that the owner of the seal was some Byzantine governor of an Italian theme.

The dating of the bulla has been rendered difficult by its unusual appearance, but according to its iconography, provided it is a Byzantine seal, it should be to the late IXth or Xth centuries.

Regarding the owner of the seal, another solution could also be suggested. It is known that the doges of Venice and their successor were traditionally dignified with Byzantine titles, which differed depending on the period.

Usually the respective doge, after taking over the governing of the republic, dispatched his son and future doge to Constantinople to pay his respects to the emperor, in return of which he was granted the title hypatos (in the first half of the IXth c.) and received handsome gifts (for this convention, see **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 224; and the chronicle of John the Deacon translated in *ЖИВН*, II, 347-350). It was a life title and he presented himself by it in the Byzantine Palace and the rest of the world within the boundaries of the Empire.

In 911, Ursus with the sobriquet Patricianus was elected doge of Venice. Probably, according to the tradition, he also visited Constantinople and was honored with the Byzantine title protospatharios.

What connection can be found between this Ursus and the discovery of the bulla of

Ursus protospatharios in the region of Dristra?

According to the cited Venetian chronicler John the Deacon, as soon as Ursus became doge, he sent his son named Peter to Constantinople to Emperor Leo VI. The emperor received him with honors, made him protospatharios and after presenting him with handsome gifts, let him return to his country. On his way back, when he wanted to go through the lands of the Croats, he was captured with deceit by the Slav prince Michael, who deprived him of all his gifts and punished him with exile sending him on to the Bulgarian ruler Symeon. His father, deeply grieved for losing him, could not retrieve him until finally he ransomed him with his own gifts through his envoy Dominic, archdeacon Metamushki (**John the Deacon**, translation in *ЖИВН*, II, c. 349).

The discovery of a bulla of Ursus, imperial protospatharios, in Dristra is perhaps in connection with the attempts of the doge father to ransom his son from the Bulgarian tsar. Peter was perhaps imprisoned in the Dristra fortress or Ursus sought here the mediation of the head of the Bulgarian church, whose see was located in Dristra.

It is logical to accept that he impressed his correspondence with a seal in his capacity as imperial protospatharios, a title better known in Bulgaria than that of a doge of Venice.

569. Ν. Ἀντιοχίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

163. RHM-Shumen, no. 15117. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 113. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 18-21 (15) 3 mm. W. 6.66 g. Incomplete imprint in a very good state of preservation. The initial letters in line two are indistinct thus rendering the reading of the homonym difficult. It consists of two or three letters and the restoration below is only one possibility.

Ed. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 569.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ-NI-K || Λ-AO-C

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | . . . Α'CΠΑ | ..Ρ'TOAN | TIOXITI
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [Δα(ν)δ] (πρωτο)σπα[θα]ρ(ίῳ) το Ἀντιοχίτι

570. Ν. Κυριώτης πρωτοσπαθάριος (?) (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 19-20(?) 4 mm. The bulla is almost completely obliterated by the deep oxide seats.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 394.

No parallels known.

Obv. Remains of a patriarchal cross with fleurons. Only the end of the invocation is preserved:..... Δ8Λ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | ...Ρ'TΩ | .VPIΩ | TH
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ] δούλ[ῳ] Ἰω(άννη) β'(πρωτο)σπαθα[ρ(ίῳ)] τῷ
[Κ]υριώτη

571. N., Σκάρανος πρωτοσπαθάριος (?) (XI c.)

The former collection of P. Papahagi from Romania. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 20-20 mm. Incomplete imprint, which renders the reading difficult.

Ed. Banescu, Silistrie, *Byzantion*, 7, 324-325, no V.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.... | .CΠAΘ. | PHOCO | CKAP

[.... (πρωτο)]σπαθ[ά]ρηος ό Σκάρ(ανος)

572. N., πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος (?) (820s-840s)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no.273. Found in the course of excavations in the kommerkia in sector A-II, square 86. D. 24-25 (over 25) 5 mm, 16.21 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девелт*, № 7.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters : TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | .ATPIK' | ..A'CΠA | Θ' +

+Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ [..... π]ατρικ(ίῳ) [β'(πρωτο)]σπαθ(αρίῳ)+

yb) πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου.

573-591. Ἀρκάδιος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)

573-584. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 98-109.

585. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 116. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 20-23 (18) 3 mm. Successful imprint. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, *Плиска*, № 2.

586. Historical Museum, Bucharest (former collection of N. Banescu). Find-spot: the region of Kalarash-Silistra. D. 21-23 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, for which reason its text was erroneously deciphered by its publisher.

Ed. Banescu, *Sigillii inedite*, no. 3.

587. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, presumably it 'flew out' from Preslav. D. 23-25 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

588. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 29252. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav Found in the

dumped soil during excavations under the supervision of T. Mihailova on 13th July 2006. D. 12-20 mm. W. 2.68 g. Fragment about a half.

Unpublished.

589. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, field no. 218. Found in the dumped soil filling in the sounding ditches from previous excavations at the Palace square site in the eastern part of square 129-II at a depth of 0.20-0.40 m in 2006. It had remained unnoticed in the soil covering the ditches. D. 25.5-27.5 mm. W. 20,95 g. In a good state of preservation. The obverse is more distinct.

Unpublished.

590. Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1941. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain.D. 21-22 (20 ?) 2.2 mm, W. 8.16 g. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Unpublished.

591. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to the collection of RHM, Shumen, in December 2007). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 20-22 (?) 3 mm. W. 8.36 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

The eighteen specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla : MP || ΘV. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- . - | APKAΔ | A'CΠAΘ' | EΠIT'XP | COTPIK'

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Ἀρκαδ(ίῳ) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) χρ(υ)σοτρικ(λίνου)

593. Γεώργιος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (first half of the XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 364. Find-spot: the town. D. 21-22 (?) 2.1 mm. Incomplete imprint due to both the larger diameter of the dies and the weak strike on the blank in the boulloterion. Only the head of the Virgin and part of the head of Christ are visible on the obv.; many letters are missing from the inscription on the rev. However, the bulla itself is in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, *Силистра*, II, № 3.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ on l. arm. Sigla: \overline{MP} || ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΚΕ.. | . ΕΩΡΓΙΟ | .CΠAΘ'P' | K -

+Θ(εοτό)κε [β(οή)θ(ει) Γ]εωργίο [(πρωτο)]σπαθ(α)ρ(ίῳ) [ἐπ(ι) τ(οῦ) χρ(υ)σοτρι]κ(λίνου)

594. Γρήγορα β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 23.5-24 (21) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Nearly half of the dies did not print.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons on three steps.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΓΡΛ. | .ΑΡ'Α'C... | .ΠΗΤ8... | .Ι..

+Γρι[γορ]ᾱ β'(πρωτο)σ[παθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ] [χρυσοτρ]ι[κ(λ(ί)ν(ου))]

595. Θεόδωρος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-30 mm. Weakly imprinted.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription:|| Δ-O-P'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕΟ | ΔΟΡΟ. | .ΠΑΘ'ΕΠ. | .^PΤΡΗ | ΚΛ'Ν'

+Θεόδωρο[ς (πρωτο)σ]παθ(αρίω) ἐπ[ὶ τοῦ] χρ(υσο)τρικλ(ί)ν(ου)

596-599. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (XI c.)

596. RHM-Shumen, no. 14751/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23.5-27 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 10.40 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 165.

597. RHM-Shumen, no. 14751/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23-26 (22 ?) 2 mm. W. 8.40 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. Only the central letters printed.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 166.

598. RHM-Shumen, no. 14970. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 25-26 (17) 3.5 mm. W. 9.74 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 167.

599. RHM-Shumen, no. 15246. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 26-28 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 8.40 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 168.

The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion and supplemented each other; nevertheless it is impossible to restore all letters.

No parallels known.

Obv. Elaborate cross, with linear outline, standing on a straight bar; at its four ends, one big and two small pellet. On either side, tendrils arise from the base to the traverse. Circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΙΩΑΝ | ΝΗ R'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΕΠΗΤ8 | ΧΡCΟΤΡ' | .Λ...

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰωάννῃ β' (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρ(ιγ)[κ]λ[ίνου]

600. Ἰωάννης Εὐγενιανός πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (XI c.)

Private collection (Stefan Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-24 (20) 3.5 mm. W. 16.233 g. The last

lines of the text are poorly printed and clipped.

Ed. Билик, Фамилни имена, № 6; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 218.

Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p.655, no. 3; Zacos, III, no. 1488.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΙΩΑ'CΠΑΘ' | ΕΠΗΤ8^PΓ | ΤΩΕΝΓΕ | ΝΙΑΝΩ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οήθει) τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Ἰω(άννῃ) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ χρ(υσοτρ)ιγ(κλίνου) τῷ Εὐγενιανῷ

601. Μιχαήλ Μοραπας ? πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 25. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-24 mm. Once a good imprint. The obverse is well-centered but the reverse is a bit moved to the left. As a result, the initial letters of almost all lines remained outside the blank.

Unpublished.

No know parallels.

Obv. St. John the Baptist standing, r. hand raised in benediction. A double-crossed cross placed at his feet. At his either side the inscription: O-^PΩ || o-^PΩ-Δ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕ.Θ' | .ΩCΩΔΟΝ' | .ΙΧΑΗΛΑ'CΠ | .ΘΑΡ'ΕΠΗΤΟΝ | .VCOΓΚΛΗ | .ΤΟΝΜΟ
| ΡΑΠ-

+Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)]θ(ει) [τ]ῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) [Μ]ιχαήλ (πρωτο)σπ[α]θα(ρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ [χρ]υσο(τρ)ιγκλή[ν(ου)] τοῦ Μοραπ(ας)

The reading of the last two lines is problematic: is it a case of a patronym and what is it? The last letter is visibly Π. If it is R, then the patronym is connected with the toponym Morava which is at least known in comparison to the proposed one. Other ideas are also possible (καὶ) τοῦ Μοραπ(ίου); β(ασilikόν) τὸν Μοραπ(ιον), etc. Obviously, another better preserved specimen is needed to solve these hesitations.

602. Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15243. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document on 17th April 2006. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-25 (23?) 3 mm. W. 7.58 g. Incomplete imprint. Almost half of the text and image did not print. Cracked and broken along the channel. All that renders the overall reading difficult.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 169.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons and the invocation: ...ΡΟΗΘΙΤΩ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΝΙΚΙΦ | ...R'Α'CΠΑ |Τ'ΧΡV | ...ΚΛ..

[+Κ(ύρι)ε] βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Νικιφ[όρῳ] β' (πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίω) ἐπὶ] τ(οῦ) χρυ[σοτ(ριγ)]κλ[ίν(ου)]

603. Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσोटρικλίνου (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.13140. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 16-22 (?) 3 mm. Half of what was once a good bulla. The unusual homonym and the lack of key letters render the overall reading of the text difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription at r.:|| Ν-Ι-ΚΟ-ΛΑ-Ο'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΕΠΙ. | ΓΑΙC.. | ΣΠΑΘ'.. | ΠΙΤ8.. | ΤΡΙΚΛ

Επι.γαις [β'(πρωτο)]σπαθ(αριος) [(καὶ) ἐ]πὶ τοῦ [χρ(υ)σ(ο)]τρικλ(ίνου)

ye) β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν

On them, see above. Their discovery in the kommerkia of Develtos raises the following question: were they not officials in the fiscal department of the Empire?

604. Δαυὶδ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (870-900)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 409. Found in the course of excavations in the kommerkia of Develtos from its second period. D. 21-23 (20) 3.1 mm, 10.57 g. Well-centered and well-executed imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Деветл, № VII.8.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots beginning at seven o'clock: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΔΑΥΙΔ | Ρ'Α'ΣΠΑΘ | ΑΡΙΩΣΕΠΙ | ΤΩΝΟΙΚ | ΙΑΚΩΝ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Δαυὶδ β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρίῳ (καὶ) ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκ(ε)ιακῶν

In the publication cited above the assumption has been made that the owner of the seal was formerly a kommerkiarios of Develtos and as such he exchanged correspondence with the chancery of the archbishop of Bulgaria located in Pliska.

605. Θεοδόσιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (870-900)

Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 72. Found in the course of excavations of the Great Basilica site in Pliska, sector North, square 164 on 12.05.1975. D. 20-21 (11-18) 3 mm. Very well-centered and printed bulla. Its periphery was additionally carefully trimmed after sealing of the correspondence.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 17.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots beginning at seven o'clock: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΕΩ : | ΔΟCΗΩΡ' | Α'ΣΠΑΘΑΡ | ΗΩΣΕΠΗ | ΤΟΝΥΚΙ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Θεοδοσήῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθαρήῳ (καὶ) ἐπὶ τὸν ὑκ(ε)ι(ακῶν)

606. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (X c.)

Private collection (G. Galabov, Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-25 (20) 2.1 mm. Good imprint and specimen in a superb state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Inscription in two columns: Ο-Α-Γ' || Γ-Ε-Ο-Ρ-Γ'

Traces of a circular inscription:ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΟΝC | ΤΑΝΤΗΝ. | Ρ'Α'ΣΠΑΘ' | ΕΠΙ Τ'ΥΚ. | ΑΚΟΝ +

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη] τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κωνσταντῖν[ω] β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) [(καὶ)] ἐπὶ τ(ὸν) ὑκ(ει)ακὸν

607. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Varna. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-28 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Unclear image.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.Κ... | ΤΑΝ... | ΩΡ'Α'.... | ΣΕΠΙ.... | ΙΚ....

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Κ[ονσ]ταν[τίν]ω β'(πρωτο)[σπαθ(αρίῳ)] (καὶ) ἐπὶ [τ(ὸν) οἰ]κ[(ει)ακὸν]

yd) πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος

608-611. Βασίλειος Γλαβᾶς πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος (XI c.)

608. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18552. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-27 (18) 4 mm. W. 15.23 g. Superb imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 89; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 132.

609. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20128. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-25 (18) 3 mm. W. 11.63 g. The blank was of irregular shape, the boulloterion was loosened, as a result there was a slight displacement between the upper and lower dies.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 90; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 133.

610. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19583. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-21 (18) 2.5 mm. W. 5.8 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 91; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 134.

611. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, field no. 422. Found during excavations of the Ruler's Church in the Inner City of Preslav, sector 162/103, ditch 72, at a depth of 2.95 m on 27th August 2007. D. 15-26 (18) 3 mm. Fragment. Half of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished.
The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion:
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter topped with a palm branch (r. hand) and a globus surmounted by a cross (l. hand). Sigla: M | I - X | -.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- - | +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑCΙΛΙΩ | Α'CΠΑΘΑΡ' | VΠΑΤΟ'Ω | ΓΛΑΡΑC | - -
- - | +ΚΕ . . | ΡΑCΙ . . . | Α'CΠΑ . . . | VΠΑΤ . . | ΓΛΑ . . . | - -
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Βασιλίω (πρωτο)σπαθαρι(ώ) υπάτο (τ)ῷ Γλαβᾶς

The bulla struck over another of the same dignitary with the title protovestes essentially belongs to this group (for a commentary on this dignitary, see no. 511)

612. Ιωάννης Πενταίλας πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος (mid-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 12340.7. Purchased from Al. Boev from Silistra. D. 17-19 (over 20) 2.5 mm. Perhaps once a good imprint, but now in a poor state of preservation. The obverse is completely obliterated, as it seems melted. There are broken fragments on the reverse and the surface is effaced. All this renders the reading difficult. Problematic are lines 5 and 6 presumably containing the patronym.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 564.
No parallels known.

Obv. Completely obliterated surface.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..ΕΡ' . | .ΩCΩΔ. | .ΩΑ'CΠΑΘ | .VΠΑΤ'Τ. | . ΕΝΤ. | Λ
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλ)ω Ιω(άννη) (πρωτο)σπαθ(α)[ρ(ί)ω)]
υπάτ(ω) τῷ Π[εν]τ[αί]λ(α)

613. Μιχαήλ πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος (mid-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, no. 13614. Find-spot: Silistra or Northeastern Bulgaria. D. 27-30 (21) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, but bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 12.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΓΕ-Ω || Ρ-Γ-Ι-Ο'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | Α'CΠΑΘ.ΡΙ | .VΠΑΤ | Ω
[+] Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Μιχαήλ (πρωτο)σπαθ[α]ρί[ω] υπάτω

z) rector

Personal position attested as early as the VIIth-VIIIth centuries. It was very often conferred on clerics and gradually became a title. It was attested until the XIth c. see **Guiland**, *Recherches*, II, 212-219; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 308.

614. Βασίλειος ραίκτωρ (IX-X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15126. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 122. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 12-22 (20) 3 mm. W. 3.78 g. Half of what was once a good imprint. The restoration of the image and text is made on the basis of the parallel cited below.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 171.
Parallels: Konstantopulos, no. 489.

Obv. Part of eight radial rays, a letter at each end; when joined together, they give the invocation:

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. . . . | . ΕΙΩ . . . | ΚΤΩ. . | ΑΜ . . | . + .
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλ)ω Βασιλ[ε]ίω [ράι]κτω[ρι] ἀμ[ήν] +

Presumably the same Basil was the owner of the seal on which he is οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας (see no. 1469 here).

αα) σεβαστός

A title until the XIth c., connected only with the emperor as a variety of augustus. The first attempt at violating this tradition was attested under Constantine IX Monomachos (1042- 1055), when he conferred this title on his two mistresses as to make them equal somehow to the two empresses Zoe and Theodora. But that was only an isolated case. The same title presumably with the same purpose was also adopted by Isaakios I Komnenos (1057-1059) in the period when he was a claimant to the throne. The fact that according to some documents dated in 1071 Constantine Kerularios, lawyer and nephew of Patriarch Michael Kerularios, was also honored with this title should likewise be considered in the sphere of exception. Alexios Komnenos and his brother were also honored with this title by Nikephoros III Botaneiates (1078-1081) in a ceremony including acclamation of part of the senate. Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118) conferred this title on many of the members of his family and his close associates. The following are derivatives of this title: πρωτοσέβαστος, πανυπερσέβαστος, σεβαστοκράτωρ and others. Nevertheless, throughout the XIIth c. it was a title of a highest rank in the Empire. It is a rank occupying the seventy-seventh position in the hierarchy in Pseudo-Kodinos (of the XIVth c.).

A certain revival of the title is observed in the Second Bulgarian kingdom, when it was held by a number of provincial governors.

Lit. Петров, П. О титулах “севаст” и “протосеваст” в средновековом болгарском государстве.- *BBp.*, XVI, 1959, 52-64; **Stiernon**, Sebastos et gambros, 226-228; **Ahrweiler**, H. Le sebasto chef de groupes ethniques.- *Variorum Reprint*, London, 1971, XIV, 34-38; **Ferjancic**, B. Sevastokratori u Vizantiji.- *ZRVI*, XI, 1968, 142-182; **Oikonomides**, Evolution,

615. Ἄννα Δουκαίνη σεβαστή (1068- before 1136 ?)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15495. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: Melnitsa. D. 13-15 (?) 3 mm. W. 3.46 g. Although the imprint was well-centered, it is incomplete due to the small blank. Large part remained outside the blank. Unpublished.
Parallels: **Stavrakos**, no. 67, which is also incomplete and the reading is not absolutely certain. We cannot be sure whether our specimen was struck in same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans facing with medallion on her breast.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | | . . NHCE . . | . HTHΔ . | . AINH
 [+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) τῇ σῇ δούλῃ Ἄν]νῃ σε[βαστ]ῇ τῇ Δ[ουκ]αίνῃ

616. Εἰρήνη Συναδηνή σεβαστή (first quarter, XII c.)

RHM-Pernik, no. 359. Found in the course of excavations in the medieval fortress near the town, square V / 163, at a depth of 0.60-0.80 m. D. 23-25 (22) 4 mm. Very good imprint and a bulla in an excellent state of preservation.
Ed. Юркува, Перник, II, 126-128; Йорданов, Севаст, № 14; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 683.
Parallels: Two specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the collections of the Hermitage (M-456, Шандровская. Печати Синадинов, 180-181, рис. 2.6) and Fogg A.M. no 17 (unpublished).

Obv. The Virgin standing, turned three quarters l., holding Christ on her r. arm. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ | CΦPAGIC | CΕΡΑΥHC | CVNAAΔHNH | ΕΙΡΗNHIC
 + Σφραγίς σεβαστῆς Συναδηνῆς(ς) Εἰρήνης

617. Εὐδοκία σεβαστή (XI-XII c.)

Private collection (Pernik). Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Popovitsa, Plovdiv region. D. 22.5-24 (23) 3 mm, 7.75 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.
Unpublished.
Parallels. Gorny & Mosch Auction 160: 9th October 2007. Lot number: 2830.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | CΦPAGIC | .ΕΡΑΥHC | ΕΥΔΟΚΙ | - AC -
 σφραγίς [σ]εβαστῆς Εὐδοκίας

617A. Μαρία Δούκαινα σεβαστή (XII c.)

Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: uncertain. D.26-27 (25) 4 mm. Complete and well

preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 190.

Parallels: **Laurent**, *Bulles metriques*, no. 698; **Cheyne**, *Zacos*, III, no. 78; Hirsch, *Sale* 194 (19-22 February 1997), no. 695; unpublished in DO. 47. 2. 1143=Shaw 1297 (no. 1143).

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

- + - | CΦPA | ΓICCE | RAΥHC

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

ΜΑΡΙΑC | THCΔOV | KAINIC
 + Σφραγίς σεβαστῆς Μαρίας τῆς Δουκαίνης

618. Ξένη Δοκειανή σεβαστή (XII c.)

Historical Museum, Nova Zagora. Found in the course of excavations of the medieval settlement on the mound near the village of Diadovo, Nova Zagora region. D.23.5-24 (over 25) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint not only because of the smaller blank but also because of off-centering.
Ed. Йорданов, Нова Загора, № 1; Йорданов, Севаст, № 34; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.183.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | ..ΕΙΞΕ.. | .ΕΡΑΥHT. | ΔΟΚΕΙΑNH |
 [+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ]ει Ξέ[ν]η σ]εβαστῇ τ[ῇ] Δοκειάνῃ

619. Ἀοίνος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30446. Formerly in a private collection (Dimitar Dimitrov from Pernik). Found in the stronghold between the town of Radnevo and the village of Znamenets. An enormous blank, 33 mm. in diameter, and a poorly preserved anonymous were discovered in the same find-spot. D.14.5- 26.5 mm. Half of what was once a good specimen, which renders the reading of the text difficult.
Ed. Йорданов, Севаст, № 1; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 197.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ before her.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | AOIN8.. | RACT... | ΦPAG... | Δ8K..
 Ἀοίνου [σε]βαστ[οῦ σ]φραγ[ίς τ(οῦ)] Δού[κας]

620. Ἀλέξιος Κομνηνὸς σεβαστός (XII c.), son of Nikephoros Komnenos, nephew of Alexios I.

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-26 mm. Good imprint and a bulla in good state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Севаст, № 2; Йорданов, Комнини-Ангели, с.32, N 4; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 337.
Parallels: **Laurent**, *Metriques*, no 324.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: ΜΡ-ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ CERA | ΦΩΝΑΛΕΞΙΟΝ | ΕΚΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΕΣ | ΦΥΝΤΑΚΟΜΝΗ |

ΝΟΝΜΡΟΝΙΑΡ | ΘΕΝΕΣΚΕΠ | - ΟΙC -

+ Σεβαστὸν Ἀλέξιον ἐκ Νικηφόρου φύντα Κομνηνοῦ μ(ητρο)παρθένε σκέποις

621-624. Ἀλέξιος Παλαιολόγος σεβαστός (XII c.)

621. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 5469. Find-spot: the town. D. 28-31 (26?) 2.5 mm. W. 11.70 g. Once a good imprint, now in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 2; Йорданов, Севаст, № 2; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 538.

622. RHM-Shumen, no. 15090. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 86. Find-spot: the vineyards of Gorna Oryahovitsa. D. 12-24 mm. W. 3.54 g. Fragment. The restoration of the image and text is on the basis of better preserved parallels.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 172.

623. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 5370. Find-spot: the town. D. 34-35 (25) 3 mm. W. 27.68 g. Superb imprint and a bulla in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 3; Йорданов, Севаст, № 3; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 539.

624. Private collection. I learned about this specimen and its documentation from Dimitar Iankov, Historical Museum, Stara Zagora. Find-spot: stronghold near the village Dobri Dol, Plovdiv region. Half of the seal is in poor condition.

Ed. Jordanov, Dobri dol, no. 2; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 540.

Parallels: A specimen struck in the same boulloterion as our specimens 623 and 624 is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO 58.106.3601).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{MP} \parallel \overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) . | ΘΚΕΡΟ . | . ΕΙΑΛΕΞΙ . | CERAΦΩ | ΤΩΠΑΛΛΑΙ . | ΛΟ ΓΩ

b) . | | . ΕΙ | CERA . . | . ΩΠ | . Ο . .

c) + | ΘΚΕΡΟΗ | ΘΕΙΑΛΕΞΙΩ | CERAΦΩΤΩ | ΠΑΛΑΙΟΛΟ | ΓΩ

d) . | ΘΚΕΡΟΗ | ΘΕΙΑΛΕΞΙΩ | CERAΦΩΤΩ | ΠΑΛΑΙΟΛΟ | ΓΩ

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Ἀλεξίω σεβαστῷ τῷ Παλαιολόγῳ

625. Ἀνδρόνικος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14354. Former collection of Emil Kossev from Shumen. He informed us that it was found somewhere in southeastern Bulgaria (Topolovgrad region?). Later it was determined that the seals in this collection originated from the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, Elhovo region. D. 21-44 (31) 3.5 mm. W. 16.76 g. Once a superb imprint of which only a portion smaller than a half has reached us. The completion of the text is difficult at this stage. Above I offer a variant completion of lines 2 and 3. What we still need to find is some unpublished parallel or a better preserved specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Севаст, № 5; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 196.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a standing figure of a military saint with the nimbus, mail and sword (r. hand) visible. Remains of an inscription: O-A-Γ-I-O-C ||

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

....ΚΛΕ |ΦΥΝ |Δ8ΚΩΝ |CERA |ΝΔΡΟΝΙ |ΘΛΗΤΑ | ...ΠΟΙC

[Εὐ]κλε[οῦς γε] φύν[τα τῶν] Δουκῶν [ἐκ γένους] σεβα[τὸν Ἀ]νδρόνι[κον,
ἀ]θλητά, [σκε]ποις

625A. Ἀνδρόνικος Δούκας σεβαστός (end of the XIII c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15161. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 157. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D. 31.5-33 (31) 3.5 mm. W. 19.20 g. A good and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 196a.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George of Kouperiotes, standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Inscription in two columns:

O-AΓ'-Γ-Ε-WP-ΓΙ-Ος || O-K8-ΠΕ-ΡΙ-W-T-Hs : Ὁ ἄγ(ιος) Γεώργιος ὁ Κουπεριώτης

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

CERAΦΩΝ | ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚΟΝ | Δ8ΚΩΝΕΚΓΕ | Ν8CΓΕΩΡΓΙΕ | CΚΕΠΟΙΜΕ |

ΜΑΡΤΥΡΩ | Κ.ΕΟC

Σεβαστὸν Ἀνδρόνικον Δουκῶν ἐκ γένους Γεώργιε, σκέποις με μαρτύρω(ν)
κλέος

Several representatives of this family are known from the second half of the XIIth c. to which period the seal is generally dated (see Polemys, *Doukai*, nos. 39; 104). On the depiction of St. George of Kouperiotes, see Йорданов, И. Византийски печати от територията на днешна България с изображение на св. Георги Купериотис.-Сб. Проф. д.и.н. Тотю Тотев и столицата Велики Преслав, София 2006, 194-200.

626. Ἀνδρόνικος Καματηρὸς σεβαστός (second half of the XII c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 13344. Purchased from Nessebar. D. 20-21 (20.5) 3 mm. A well-centered imprint but the blank was almost equal to the diameter of the dies, as a result some letters and part of the image were left out. The bulla itself is in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Севаст, № 6; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 252.

Parallels: a specimen with the same iconography and text but struck with a different pair of dies was included in Lihachev's collection (Лихачев, *Богоматери*, с. 124, рис. 284, бел. 2). Another unpublished specimen is preserved in the collection Fogg A. M. no 700. The text is the same as with the above specimen, but the archangels are absent in the depiction.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ on r. arm. Sigla: $\overline{MP} \parallel \overline{\Theta V}$. Bust of an archangel is represented at the l. of the Virgin. Whether there is an analogous image at her r. is impossible to say, since this part of the depiction is on the circumference, outside the field, as well as slightly effaced.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΑΝΔΡΟ | ΝΙΚΩCΕΡΑC | ΤΩΤΟΚΑΜΑ | ΤΗΡΩ

Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Ἀνδρονίκῳ σεβαστῷ τῷ Καματηρῷ

627. Ἀνδρόνικος Κομνηνοδούκας Παλαιολόγος σεβαστός (second half, XII c.).

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30074. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Dobri dol. D. 21-32;

field 28 mm; thickness 4.6 mm. One-third missing.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Plovdiv, no. 4; **Йорданов**, Севастия, № 7; **Jordanov**, Dobri Dol, no. 4; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 542.

Parallels: Further two unpublished specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the collections: DO. 55. 1. 4029; and Zacos, III, no. 1406.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

| CΦPAGIC | CΕΡΑϞOV | ..NΓPAGΩN |ONI | ...

Rev. Inscription of four lines.

KOMNHNO | ΔONKΩN | ΠΑΛΑΙΟΛ. | ΓΩ.... | ...

[+] Σφραγίς σεβαστοῦ [τῶ]ν γραφῶν[Ἀνδρ]ονί[κου] Κομνηνοδοικῶν

Παλαιολ[ό]γω[ν κλάδου]

627A. Ἀνδρόνικος Κομνηνοδοῦκας Παλαιολόγος σεβαστός (second half, XII c.).

RHM-Shumen, no. 15249. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 37-42 (36) 4 mm. W. 47.42 g. Incomplete imprint. The letters are indistinct which renders the reading difficult. The identification is made on the basis of the cited parallels.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 175.

Parallels: **Laurent**, *Bulles metriques*, no. 661. Further two unpublished specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the collections: DO. 55. 1. 4029; and Zacos, III, no. 1406.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

..ΑΛΑΙΟΛΟ | . . CANΔPO | ΝΙΚΟCΜΕΓΡΑ | ΦΕΙΚΟΜΝΗΝΟ | Δ8ΚΟΝ

Rev. Inscription of four lines.

ΕΞΑΝΑ | ΚΤΩΝ.CΦ. | WCPWTO | . ANCΕΡΑϞO. | .ΕΝΠΕΡΤΑΤΟ.

[Π]αλαιολό[γο]ς Ἀνδρονικός με γράφει Κομνηνοδοῦκων ἐξ ἀνάκτων

[ὁ]σφ[ύ]ος ὁ πρωτο[π]ανσέβαστο[ς ἐ]ξυπέρτατο[ς]

628. Ἀνδρόνικος Ρογέριος σεβαστός (XII c.)

Private collection (Georgi Stoianov-Mokana from Novi Pazar). D. 33-33 (33-25) 4 mm. Find-spot: uncertain to date. The high relief is in a superb state of preservation, while the letters of the inscription are cut and some are obliterated. Later the same specimen was offered at an auction.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Комнини-Ангели, N 11; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 597.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion, of an oxidated surface but of more complete inscription is preserved in the Shaw collection no. 1080 (see **Laurent**, V. Andronic Rogerios, fondateur du couvent de la Theotokos Chrysokamariotissa. - *Bulletin de la section historique de la Academie roumaine*, 27, 1946, 73-84).

Obv. Inscription, starting from above, between two borders of dots: +CKEΠ ...XPVCO

ACKVPIOV = + Σκέπ[οις με] χρυσό[σπαστε παστ]ᾶς Κυρίου

Within the enclosed field at l., an icon of the Virgin, turned three quarters l., blessing (r. hand) and holding the Christ Child on l. arm. Sigla: $\overline{MP} || \overline{\Theta V}$. At r., a male figure with a hat or a diadem, wearing a chlamys and a loros, walking l. and presenting to the Virgin a model cross-domed church.

Rev. The inscription from the obverse continues between two borders of dots: +CΕΡΑϞON

ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚΟ.ΕΚΡΩ.....=+ Σεβαστὸν Ἀνδρόνικον ἐκ Ῥω[γερίων]

Within the enclosed field, a monogram. After joining the text from either side and straightening it, it reads:

Σκέποις με χρυσόσπαστε παστᾶς Κυρίου

σεβαστὸν Ἀνδρόνικον ἐκ Ῥωγερίων

Βασίλειος Βατάτζης σεβαστός (last quarter of the XII c.), see no. 3180.

629-630. Γεώργιος Γλαβᾶς σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)

629. RHM-Veliko Turnovo. Found in 1978 in the course of archaeological excavations on the Tsarevets at site no. 13 near the Eastern fortress wall. D. 31-31 (30) 3.2 mm. A well-centered but weak imprint. The swelling above the channel is not pressed.

Ed. **Тотев**, К. Новооткрит печат на севаста Георги Глава от Царевец. - *Нумизматика*, 4, 1982, 15-16; **Йорданов**, Севастия, № 8; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 142.

630. Private collection (a collector from Haskovo). A plaster cast of the same and information on the find-spot was given by D. Aladjov. It was found in the medieval fortress near the village of Perperék, Kurdzhali region. D. 32-34 (30) ? mm. A good imprint but still some of the letters are out of the blank or are not printed. A bulla in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Севастия, № 9; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 143.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Known in the literature are several bullae struck in the same boulloterion:

- two specimens are from the former Lihachev's collection, currently in the Hermitage (M-8083); for information on them, see **Лихачев**, *Моливдовулы*, табл. LVIII.9;
- a metal imprint presumably of some of the above specimens is preserved in the Vatican collection (see **Laurent**, *Vatican*, no. 67; Idem, *Bulles metriques*, no. 651);
- in the collection of the Warsaw museum (see Szemioth - Wasilewski, Varsovie, no. 35);
- an unpublished bulla in the collection of Fogg A. M., no. 3761; Zacos, III, no. 202.

Obv. Half-length image of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla:

$\overline{MP} || \overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

a)+ M- . ΘV | CKEΠ . TON | CONΔ . ΛON | CΕΡΑ . TON | TONΓΛ . RAN

| ΓΕΩ . ΓΙ | ON : -

b)+ M-P ΘV | CKEΠETON | CONΔ8ΛON | CΕRACTON | TONΓΛARAN |

ΓΕΩΡΓΙ | ON : -

+ M(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ σκέπε τὸν σὸν δούλον σεβαστὸν τὸν Γλαβᾶν Γεώργιον

631. Γεώργιος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 127. Found on the land of the village of Ahmatovo, Plovdiv region. D. 33-34 (30) 4 mm. The imprint was well-centered but the side letters of the reverse are not printed. It seems

a portion from the bulla has been chipped.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 8; *Йорданов*, Севастии, № 10; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 198.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ | ΦΡΑΓΙΣ | ΣΕΡΑΕΥΟΝ | Τ8Δ8ΚΑΓΕ | ΩΡΓΙΟΝ | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΔΙΕΥΛΑ | ..ΙΑΝ8ΦΕ | ΡΕΙΘ.ΟΝC | ΤΝΠΟΝC | - ο -

+ [Σ]φραγὶς σεβαστοῦ τοῦ Δούκα Γεωργίου

δι εὐλά[βε]ιαν οὐ φέρει θ[ε]ίους τύπους

632-642. Γεώργιος Παλαιολόγος σεβαστός (1094-1119)

A.

632. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.24817. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda.

D. 20-20(19) 4 mm. W. 8.28 g. Good imprint and a good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no 3; *Йорданов*, Севастии, № 11; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 546.

Parallels: Three specimens struck with the same pair of dies are preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58.106.1353; 58.106. 1368; 55. 1. 3220).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{M} || \overline{\Theta}$. Inscription between two borders of dots: ΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΓΕΩΡ | ΓΙΩCΕ | ΡΑCΤΩ | ΤΩΠΑΛΑΙ | ΟΛΟΓ

[+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ]ει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Γεωργίῳ σεβαστῷ τῷ Παλαιολόγ(ω)

B.

633. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.24818. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda.

D. 15-16.5 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 6.31 g. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller in diameter than the dies. The bulla itself is of poorly-preserved surface.

Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 4; *Йорданов*, Севастии, № 12; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 547.

634. RHM-Kurdzhali, field no. 34. Found on the ground during excavations in the settlement near the village of Tatul on 20th May 2004. D. 20-20 (18) 2 mm. Broken along the channel. Inscription and image in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. Овчаров, Стоименов, № 1.

635. RHM-Kurdzhali, field no. 42. Found during excavations in the settlement near the village of Tatul, square B-5, to the west of the wall on 20th May 2004. D. 19-19 (17?) 2 mm. Off-center. The initial letters of each line remained outside the blank.

Ed. Овчаров, Стоименов, № 2.

636. RHM-Kurdzhali, field no. 45. Found during excavations in the settlement near the village of Tatul, in the dumped soil on 21st May 2004. D. 12-9 (?)2 mm. Half broken along the channel. The right half of the image and the left half of the inscription are preserved.

Ed. Овчаров, Стоименов, № 3.

637. RHM-Kurdzhali, field no. 170. Found during excavations in the settlement near the village of Tatul, western slope, on 29th June 2005. D. 17-16 (?) 2 mm. The iconographic image is off-centered. The first line of the inscription as well as the initial letter of each line remained outside the blank.

Ed. Овчаров, Стоименов, № 4.

638. RHM-Kurdzhali, field no. 221. Found during excavations in the settlement near the village of Tatul, square D 8-E 8 on 17th July 2005. D. 19-19 (18) 1,5 mm. Specimen in a superb state of preservation. Irregular round shape which affected only one letter of the inscription.

Ed. Овчаров, Стоименов, № 5.

639. RHM-Kurdzhali, field no. 248. Found during excavations in the settlement near the village of Tatul, square G 4-H 4 on 19th July 2005. D. 19-17 (?) 2-3 mm. Overstruck with the seal of Argyros Phorbenos as a private person:

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

... || Γ-Ε-Ω.-ΠΙ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | Ρ . . . ΟΡ | ΡΙΝΟCΔ8 | ΛΟCΧV

Ed. Овчаров, Стоименов, № 6.

640. RHM-Kurdzhali, no. 5549. Found in the Klisse Basha locality near Perperikon.

Ed. Овчаров, Стоименов, № 6.

The eight specimens were struck in a same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Circular inscription: ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΓΕΩΡΓΙΩ and a depiction as above.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

CΕ | ΡΑCΤΩ | ΤΩΠΑΛΑΙ | ΟΛΟΓΩ

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Γεωργίῳ σεβαστῷ τῷ Παλαιολόγῳ

C.

641. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 6041. Formerly in the private collection of V. Stankov from Batak, no. 39. Find-spot: the village of Fakia district of Burgas. D. 23-23 mm. Incomplete imprint and specimen in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 548.

Parallels : Unpublished from DO. 55. 1. 3217; 55. 1. 3218; 55. 1. 3219.

Obv. Between two borders of dots the inscription: ΕΙΤΩCΩ....

In center, bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her chest. Sigla:

$\overline{M} || \overline{\Theta}$: Μ(ήτηρ) Θ(εοῦ).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ΩCΕΡΑCΩ | ΤΩΠΑΛΑ . | ΟΛΟΓΩ | - -

[+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ]ει τῷ σῷ [δούλῳ Γεωργί]ῳ σεβαστῷ τῷ Παλα[ι]ολόγῳ

D

642. Private collection (S. Bilik, Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain, at 10-15 km from Haskovo. D. 26-25 (25) 3 mm. W. 11.235 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Севастии, № 13; Билик, Фамилии имена, № 1; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 549.

Parallels: Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p.685, no5; Лихачев, *Молищевулы*, табл. LXIV.6; Barnea, Dobrudja, no 5; DO.55. 1. 3984; Fog. A. M. no 1189; IFEB, no 652. For a summary of the seals of this type, see Vannier, *Paleologues*, p. 140, n. 34. It is hard to determine whether they were struck in one and the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin, as above.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+| CΦPAGI| ΓΕΩPΓI.. | CΕPAC^ϥ8T. | ΠΑΛΑΙΟΛ. | Γ.
+ Σφραγί[ς] Γεωργί[ου] σεβαστοῦ [τ]οῦ Παλαιολ[ό]γ[ου]

To supplement my previous publication I could add the ascertainment of the large number of seals of George Palaiologos discovered in Bulgaria. They illustrate his great activity in the Bulgarian lands. Of special interest are his more than six seals found in the settlement near the village of Tatul. Very interesting is also his overstruck seal of Argyros Phorbenos. Is there any other connection between them besides the chronological one?

643. Θεόδωρος Οἰναιώτης σεβαστός (late XII c.)

RHM-Haskovo, no.518. Found in the course of excavations in the Constantia fortress on 22nd September 1985. D. 36-37 (31) 3.1 mm; of the relief itself 4.1 mm. The engraving of the dies was superb attesting to a pretentious artistic taste. The depiction of the Virgin looks almost statuary. The bulla itself is very well preserved, with the exception of the head of the Virgin, which is the most raised part of the relief and was effaced.

Ed. Йорданов, Тунджа и Марица, № 6; Йорданов, Севастι, № 15; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.528.
No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin Hagiosoritissa standing, turned three quarters l., with arms raised in orans toward the *manus Dei* in the upper l. field. Inscription on either side:
MP-ΘV| HA-ΓI-O-Co || PI-TI-C-CA.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+| CΦPAGI C | CΕPAC^ϥ 8 | ΘΕΟΔΩP8 | T8OINAI | - ΩT8 -
+ Σφραγίς σεβαστοῦ Θεοδώρου τοῦ Οἰναιώτου

644. Θεόδωρος Κωντοστεφάνος σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: the land of the village of Gipsovo, district of Radnevo. A medieval settlement and a necropolis dating from the XIth-XIIIth c. were discovered in the Gipsovo area (see *Μαριца-Изток*, 1, c. 23). D. 30-30 mm. Incomplete imprint. Some of the letters are out of the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Севастι, № 16; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 355.

Parallels: Unpublished specimens in Fogg, A. M. nos. 954, 992 and Zacos, III (see *SBS*, 3, p. 25, no. 12).

Obv. Two monograms occupying the whole field and containing the name Κωντοστεφάνος

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ONCE | .ACTON | ΘΕΟΔΟ | POV
[T]οῦ σε[β]αστοῦ Θεοδόρου

644A. Θεόδωρος Χλεβέριτος σεβαστός (XII c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-42 (38 ?) 3 mm, W. 16.00 g. Half preserved. Holed in the upper end.

Ed. Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 749.

No parallels known.

Obv. Standing figure of a military saint. Part of the inscription visible: O-A-ΓI-OC

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

...AT8 |ΑΦAC |CKEΠE |TOVC | ...ETOV
[Σεβ]αστοῦ [τὰς γρ]αφὰς ἀ[θλητὰ] σκέπε [Θεοδῶ]ρου Χλ[εβέρι]τος
[οἰκ]έτου

645. Θεόδωρος Χοῦμνος σεβαστός (XII c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna, no. 377). Find-spot: uncertain (South Bulgaria). D. 20-33 mm. W. 8.50 g. Half preserved.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 753.

Parallels: Unpublished from Fogg, A. M. no. 12. Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. The two Sts Theodoroi standing in supplication before a segment of heaven showing the Hand of God.

Rev. Metrical inscription of seven lines:

+| | ...ACT.. | ..ΟΔΩ... | TONXOV. . . . | CΕΠITHZV.... | MAPTV... | .. ΟΔ.... | -.-
[+ Σκέποις σεβ]αστ[ὸν Θε]όδω[ρον] τὸν Χοῦ[μνον] σεπτὴ ξυ[νωρίς]
μαρτύ[ρων Θε]οδ[ώ]ρον]

646. Ἰωάννης Δούκας σεβαστός [90s of XI c. Brother of the empress Irene Doukaina and brother-in-law of Emperor Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118)]

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 25316. Found on the sea coast in Sozopol. D. 21-23 (?) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. Only very small sections of the depiction of both saints and still smaller sections of the letters are printed. Nevertheless, this is the whole bulla once affixed to its owner's correspondence to Sozopol, where the whole seal was perhaps well-known and the correspondence was taken without reservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Севастι, № 17; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 200.

Parallels: An unpublished bulla struck in the same pair of dies is preserved in Fogg A. M. no. 1926. On its basis, we can do the completion and reading of our specimen. Two other specimens of the same type are also known, but their texts are incomplete, thus their reading was difficult. They were struck in a different boulloterion or a different pair of dies. (The one is from the study of antique numismatics in Vienna, no. 16 and the other is from the private collection of Mr. O'Hara from London, no. 68. Their publisher Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, no. 39 has combined the preserved inscriptions but they still were insufficient to read the whole inscription.)

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription within two borders of dots: .CΕΠT = [+] Σεπτ[ὴ ζυνωρίς τῶν σοφῶν ἀνθηφόρ(ων)]

Rev. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Only the r. half and part of the inscription containing his name are preserved ...|| TP-I. Around the depiction, inscription between two borders of dots:

..... ΤΕΔΟΝΚ = [+σκέποι] τε Δούκ[αν σεβαστὸν Ἰω(άννην)]

646A. Ἰωάννης Κομνηνός σεβαστός (XI-XII c.)

Private collection (S. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: the area of the town of Parvomai, Plovdiv region. D. 27-28 (24)? mm. Complete imprint of heavily damaged surface. The letters are deformed and damaged, which renders the reading uncertain.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 343.

No parallels known.

Obv. Standing figure of a military saint (St. George)

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- + - | CΦPAΓIC | CΕRACTON | KOMNHN8 | IWANN8

+Σφραγίς σεβαστοῦ Κομνηνοῦ Ἰωάννου

646B. Ἰωάννης Κομνηνὸς σεβαστός (XI-XII c.).

Private collection (S. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-28 mm. Half of what was once an excellent imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 343A.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

.. ERO | . . . ITΩ | . . Δ8ΛΩ | .Ω

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

CER . | CTΩ . . | KOM . . | N .

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ήθε]ι τῷ [σῶ] δούλῳ [Ἰ]ω(άννη) σεβ[α]στῷ [τῶ] Κομ[νη]ν[ῶ]

647. Ἰωάννης Κωντοστεφάνος Κομνηνὸς σεβαστός (?) (XII c.)

Private collection. Offered for purchase at the Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, where I examined and documented it. It was found along with coins of Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180) and three gilt appliques or medallions decorated with archangel Michael. D. 18-31.5 (30) 3 mm. Once a good imprint of which only a half is preserved.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Севаст*, № 18; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 356.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription:|| Γ-I-O-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

CΦ..... | CΕ..... | KON..... | ΦΑ..... | Μ.....

Σφ[ραγίς] σε[βαστοῦ] Ἰω(άννου) Κον[τοστε]φά[νου] Κομ[νηνοῦ]

648. Ἰωάννης Ταρωνίτης σεβαστός (XII c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: Silistra-Kalarash. D. 21-23 (over 23) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. The blank was irregularly shaped and the strike was off-center.

Ed. **Barnea**, *Noi sigillii*, no. 18; **Йорданов**, *Севаст*, № 19; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 706.

Parallels: **Лихачев**, *Историческое значение*, табл. VII.17; Unpublished in the collections of: DO. 55. I. 3342; Shaw no 394 (1309-1310); IFEB, no 9; Zacos, III, no 1596. They are of the same type and presumably from the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla : \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | NAR'Θ'MO. | TΩCΩΔ'ΙΩ | CΕΡΑΨΩΤΩ | ΤΑΡΩΝΙ

[+Δέσποι]να β(οή)θ(ει) μο[ι] τῷ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Ἰω(άννη) σεβαστῷ τῷ

Ταρωνί(τη)

649-650. Ἰωσήφ σεβαστός (XII c.)

649. A plaster cast from the collection of prof. T. Gerasimov. A note on its back reads: Haskovo, the museum, 1958. Currently the original is missing. D. 25-29 (24)? mm. Good imprint, but made slightly above, as a result of which the head of the saint remained out of the blank.

Ed. **Йорданов-Аладжов**, *Хасковско*, I, № 12; **Йорданов**, *Севаст*, № 20.

650. An original similar to the cast in the collection of a collector from Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-26 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Севаст*, № 21.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Inscription in two columns: O-AΓI-OC-Θ-Ε || Δ.-PO-C

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΜΑΡΤΥ. | CΕΡΑΨΩΝ | ΙΩCHΦΔΙ | Δ8ΧΑΡ'

Μάρτυ[ς] σεβαστῶν Ἰωσήφ δίδου χάρ(ιν)

The data are insufficient for searching in the narrative sources.

651-652. Κωνσταντῖνος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)

651. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 144. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 29-31 (30) 3.1 mm, W. 20.76 g. It appears to be in a poor state of preservation. Its letters are corroded and indistinct.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Севаст*, № 22; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 201.

652. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 42. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-32 (29?) 4 mm. W. 21.09 g. Well-centered imprint in a poor state of preservation. Only the letters on the channel swelling are partially preserved. The identification is based on the above better preserved specimen.

Unpublished.

We cannot say with any certitude whether they come from the same pair of dies.

Parallels: **Konstantopoulos**, no. 429d; **Stavrakos**, no. 70 (struck in the same boulloterion and in the same state of preservation); **Zacos**, III, no. 1770 (struck in a different boulloterion or a different pair of dies, in a superb state of preservation).

Obv. St. George on horseback r., holding a spear on shoulder (r. hand) and the lead (l. hand). On either side of his head, an inscription of horizontal lines: Θ-Γ-Ε-Ω || Γ.-..

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

651) .ΦΡΑΓICMA | .OVKACΕΡΑΨ8 | ΚΩΝSTANTIN8 | ONΠΕΡΑΘΛΗΤΑ |

ΕΚΠACHCRAA | . . . PVOV

652) . . . AΓIC . . | . . . KACΕΡΑ . . | . . . ANT . . | . . . ΕΡΑΘΛΗ . . |

...ACH | V . .

[Σ]φράγισμα [Δ]ούκα σεβαστοῦ Κωνσταντίνου ὄνπερ ἀθλητὰ ἐκ πάσης
βλά[βης] ῥύου

653. Κωνσταντῖνος Καμύτζης σεβαστός (1130s-1140s)

RHM-Blagoevgrad. Found on the land of the village of Valkosel, near Kaleto locality, Blagoevgrad region. D. 32-32 (24) ? mm. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Кемалов, К., Николов, Д. Византийски моливдовул от с. Вълкосел, Благоевградско.-МПК, 4, 1966, 14-15 (the photo is in negative); Йорданов, Севасти, № 23; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 259.

Parallels: Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, no 171; Oikonomides, *Seals*, p. 4, 2 a-d (DO: 58. 106. 1263; 58. 106. 1777; 58. 106. 3610; Fogg A. M., no 500, 507); Cheynet-Zacos, III, no 82. All specimens are struck in the same boulloterion, despite some differences in the Dumbarton Oaks ones, which however are due to later deformations; Leontiades, Thessalonika, no. .

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || $\overline{\text{ΘV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΚΩΝ^ϞΑΝΤΙ | ΝΩ^ϞCΕΡΑ^ϞΩ | ΤΩΚΑΜV | ΤΖΗ
+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Κωνσταντίνω σεβαστῷ τῷ Καμύτζη

654. Κωνσταντῖνος Κλάδων σεβαστός (XII-XIII c.)

Private collection (Slavei Petrov from Haskovo). Find-spot: the Chala fortress near the village of Goliam Izvor, Haskovo region. D. 34-35 (31) 3 mm. Good imprint and a very well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Йорданов, И. За култа на св. Георги ὁ Κουπεριώτης според данните на някои византийски печати.-ПБА, 2, 1993, 166-169; Йорданов, Севасти, № 24; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 318.

Parallels: An unpublished bulla with the same iconographic subject and a text very similar to ours but yet, as it seems, coming from a different matrix is preserved in the collection DO 60. 105. 3051. It is possible that the boulloterion itself was retooled.

Obv. St. George of Kouperiotes standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Inscription in two columns:

Ο-ΑΓ-Γ-Ε-ΩΡ-ΓΙ-Ος||Ο-Κ8-ΠΕ-ΡΙ-Ω-Τ-Ης : Ὁ ἅγιος Γεώργιος ὁ Κουπεριώτης

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | CΦΡΑΓΙC | CΕΡΑCΤ8 | ΚΛΑΔΟΝΟC | ΚΩΝ^ϞΑΝ | ΤΗΝ : -
+ Σφραγίς σεβαστοῦ Κλάδωνος Κωνσταντήνου

655. Κωνσταντῖνος Ῥαοῦλ Δούκας σεβαστός (late XII c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.29853. Find-spot: Russe region, according to the reported information. Whether it comes from a reliable source is a different matter. D. 36-38 (29) 2.5 mm. Good imprint, but cracked along the channel.

Ed. Йорданов, Севасти, № 25; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 596.

Parallels: Mordtmann, *ΕΦΣ*, 7,1874, p. 81; Laurent, *Bulles metriques*, no. 483 [Shaw no 1137]; Maksimovic, L. Pecat Konstantina Raula.- *Зборник посветен на Божко Бабиц*, Прилеп, 1986, 139-141.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ | CΦΡΑΓΙC | ΜΑΚΑΙΚV | ΡΩCΙCΑC | ΦΑΛΕ^ϞΑ | ΤΗ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΡΑΟVΛ | CΕΡΑ^Ϟ8 | ΔΟVΚΤ8 | ΚΩΝ^ϞΑΝ | -ΤΙΝ8-

+ Σφράγισμα καὶ κύρωσις ἀσφαλεστάτη Ῥαοῦλ σεβαστοῦ Δούκα τοῦ
Κωνσταντίνου

656. Κωνσταντῖνος Σαρακινόπουλος σεβαστός (XII c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.24121. Find-spot: unknown. D. 37-42 (32) 4 mm. Perhaps once a good imprint, but now in a poor state of preservation. Battered, perforated and damaged on the surface.

Ed. Йорданов, Севасти, № 26; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 640.

Parallels: Лихачев, *Богоматери*, с. 434, табл. IV.18; Laurent, *Bulles metriques*, no 213; Zacos, III, no 1628 (the latter is unpublished and was struck in a different boulloterion or pair of dies).

Obv. The Virgin standing holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ - $\overline{\text{ΘV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ | ΚΩΝΜΕ | ΤΟNCΕR... | ΑΞΙΑΝ... | CΑΡΑΚΙ..Π8 | ΛΟΝΩ..ΡΗ | CΚΕΠΟΙC
+ Κων(σταντῖνον) με τὸν σεβ[αστὸν] ἀξίαν τὸν Σαρακι[νὸ]πουλον ὃ [Κό]ρη,
σκέποις

657-659. Μανουὴλ Βοτανειάτης σεβαστός (early XII c.)

657. RHM-Pernik, no. 359. Found in the course of excavations of the medieval fortress near the town in square V/163 at a depth of 0.60-0.80 m on 28th May 1970. D. 23-25 (22) 3 mm. Good but incomplete imprint. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Юркова, Перник, II, 123-126; Йорданов, Севасти, № 27; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 117.

658. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 39. Purchased for the collection of the Archaeological Institute and Museum from a goldsmith from Sofia. D. 32-32 (22) ? mm. Incomplete and blurred imprint. The first letters of almost every line are out of the blank.

Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 19; Йорданов, Севасти, № 28; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 118.

659. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 54. Found in the vicinity of Radomir. D. 25-25 (22) ? mm. Complete imprint but in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Мушмов, Печати, № 19; Йорданов, Севасти, № 29; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 119.

The three bullae were struck with the same pair of dies.

Parallels: Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 626, no. 4; eight other unpublished specimens are kept in various collections in the world: DO. 58.106. 5307; Fogg A. M., nos. 123, 710, 1937, 2119; Shaw no. 1022; Zacos, III, nos. 1706, 1716. They were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. The Virgin standing half-turned l. on a souppediton, holding Christ on r. arm. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || $\overline{\text{ΘV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΑΝ8ΗΛ | CΕΡΑCΤΩ | ΤΩΡΟΤΑ | ΝΕΙΑΤΗ
+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Μανουὴλ σεβαστῷ τῷ Βοτανειάτῃ

660. Μιχαὴλ Ἀτουέμης σεβαστός (XIII-XIV c.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 1034. Currently in the exhibition of the National Historical Museum in Sofia, from where I obtained a plaster cast. The original was found in the stronghold near the village of Pravdino, Yambol region. D.33-37 (over 32) 5 mm. An overall complete and distinct imprint but some of the relief parts, such as the face of the archangel, are obliterated.

Ed. Йорданов, Севастии, № 30; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 68.

Parallels: A bulla struck with the same boulloterion and commented on by almost all eminent specialists in the field of the Byzantine sigillography is stored in the Athens Numismatic Museum: Froehner, no. 12. He has assumed that the seal belonged to a certain sebastos Angelos; Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 584, no. 31, and is hesitant regarding the patronym Angelos; Konstantopulos, no 493 is of the same opinion, but later in a marginal note to a specimen in his book in the possession of the Athens Numismatic Museum he adds that a better preserved specimen was shown to him by Mr. C. Asimos, a deputy from the Cyclades islands, with a preserved last line containing the inscription ATΘEMHN, which might be the owner's family name: Laurent, *Metr.*, no 34, being unfamiliar with that marginal note, adopts Schlumberger's view, but limits the dating to the XIIth-XIIIth (?) c.; three unpublished bullae are stored in Zacos collection, III, no.1650. All six (along with ours) were struck in the same boulloterion or the same pair of dies.

Obv. Archangel Michael standing on a souppedion with nimbus, wings and ruler's insignia. He props himself with r. hand on a labarum with a long handle and holds a globus with a cross above, at r. the sigla:

Rev. Inscription in six lines:

.. ΧΩΝΜΙ | ΧΑΗΛΑΤΑΓΜΑ | ΤΩΝΘΡΑΝΙΩ. | ΦΡΟΝΡΕΙΜΙΧ. |
ΗΛΣΕΒΑΨΟΝ | ΑΤΘΕΜΗΝ
[Ἀρ]χων Μιχαήλ ταγμάτων οὐρανίω[v] φρούρει Μιχ[α]ήλ σεβαστὸν
Ἀτουέμην

660A. Μιχαήλ Στρυφνός σεβαστός (XII c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-36 (30 ?) 3.5 mm. Half preserved, rounded and holed at the upper end. Suspended as an icon or weight.

Ed. Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 677.

Parallels : Zacos, *Seals* , I, no. 2748 bis; Auction Schenk-Behrens 76, 26-28. 11. 1998, no. 496; Fogg, A. M. no. 833 (unpublished). Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Standing figure of a military saint (St. Theodore) and traces of the inscription containing his name visible in the right preserved half. The left half should have contained the depiction of St. Hykanithos standing, with both hands swinging an axe on r. to fell the tree.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+|ΓΙCΡΑ. |ΑCΓΡΑ |ΕΝΘΑΔΕ |CΕΡΑ |ΛΚΑΙ |ΝΕ
+[Σφρα]γίς β[εβαιοῖ τ]ὰς γρα[φὰς τὰς] ἐνθάδε [Στρυφνοῦ] σεβαστοῦ
Μιχαήλ καὶ [κρατύν]ει

661-663. Νικηφόρος Δούκας σεβαστός (XII c.)

661. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 2441. Found by a citizen of the town and passed on to the museum in 1942. D.29-29 (30) 3 mm. W.17.75 g. Blank smaller than the diameter of the dies.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 31; Йорданов, Севастии, № 31; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 204.

662. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 5447. D. 26-28 mm. W. 12.28 g. Well-centered but unsuccessful imprint. Indistinct letters. The identification is based on the other two specimens.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 32; Йорданов, Севастии, № 32; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 205.

663. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30073. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Dobri Dol, Plovdiv region. D. 31-31 (30) 3.5 mm. Superb imprint and a seal in fine condition.

Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no.33; Йорданов, Севастии, № 33; Jordanov, Dobri dol, no. 20; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 206.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}-\overline{\text{OV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines.

.+| CΦΡΑΓΙC | CΕΡΑΨΘΝΙΚΗ| ΦΟΡΘΤ8Δ8ΚΑ | ΡΙΖΑΝΓΕΝΟVC |
ΕΧΟΝΤΟCΕΚ | ΡΑCΙΑΕ | ΩΝ
+Σφραγίς σεβαστοῦ Νικηφόρου τοῦ Δούκα ρίζαν γένους ἔχοντος ἐκ
βασιλέων

663A. Νικηφόρος Κομνηνός σεβαστός (XI-XII c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-24 (22) 3 mm. W. 8.00 g. Fairly good imprint. Only the first line was left out of the blank. The bulla is broken in two parts.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 347.

Parallels: A seal that could be a parallel to our specimen was originally published in Schlumberger, *Inedite*, V, p. 43, no. 325, but without a photo available. It was republished by Laurent in *Bulletin*, I, p. 651, no.10, later also included in *Bulle metriques*, no. 206. Both publishers accept that the first two lines record the standard invocation: + Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει, which does not correspond to the further metrical text. On the basis of our seal we emend this reading and add the title of Nikephoros Komnenos.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding spear (r. hand), his l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: || ΜΙ-ΤΡ-Ι-ΟC : [ἽΟ ἄ(γιος)
Δη]μίτριος.

Rev. Inscription in eight lines:

+CΦΡ... | CΕΡΑCΤ8 | ΚΟΜΝΗΝ8ΝΙ | ΚΗΦΟΡΟΝΟΝ | CΑΙCΑΙΤΑΙC |
CΚΕΠΟΙC | ΜΑΡΤVC | ΚV
+Σφρ[αγίς] σεβαστοῦ Κομνηνοῦ Νικηφόρου ὃν σαῖς λιταῖς σκέποις μάρτυς
κ(αλλί)ν(ικε)

664. Στέφανος Βατάτζης σεβαστός (XII/XIII c.)

Private collection (Slavei Petrov from Haskovo). Found in the Chala fortress near the village of Goliam Izvor, Haskovo region. D. 34-34 (27) 3 mm. Superb engraving of the matrixes and a superb imprint.

Ed. Йорданов-Аладжов, Хасковско, I, № 3; Йорданов, Севастии, № 35; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 99.

Parallels: Henning-Muller, A. Bizans imparator ailerine ait kursun muhurler.-*Bulten*, 29-30, 1991, 31-38, no. 2; Unpublished in the collection of IFEB, no. 9. Struck in the same pair of dies.

Obv. The Virgin orans standing frontally on a souppedion with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}} || \overline{\text{OV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.+| CΕΡΑΨΘΝ | ΡΑΤΑΤΖΗΝ| ΨΕΦΑΝΟΝ | ΠΑΡΘΕΝΕ | CΚΕΠΕ

+Σεβαστὸν Βατάτζην Στεφάνον, Παρθένε σκέπε

665. Πανθήριος (?) Κομνηνοδουκάς σεβαστός (XII c.)

Private collection (Ivan Tsankov from Asenovgrad). Find-spot: uncertain, some place in the Haskovo region.
D. 44-44 mm. Well-centered but slightly slipped imprint. Some of the peripheral letters are doubled. A brittle blank, punctured with corrosion. The surface of the bulla is in a perfect state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Комнини-Ангели, № 22, с.48; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 352.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ | . . . ΡΑΓΙC | . . . ΡΑϞΟΝ | . . . ΡΦΝΡΑC | . . . ΕΚΓΟ | - N8 -

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΚΟΜΝΗΝ | ΝΟΔΟΝΚΑ | ΘΗΡΙΩΝ . | ΜΟΝΜΕ | N8

+ [Σφ]ραγῖς [σε]βαστοῦ [πο]ρφύρας [τοῦ] ἐκγόνου

Κομνηνοδούκα θηριων[υ]μουμένου

ab) σεβαστοκρατόρισα

A wife of σεβαστοκράτωρ. A title established by Alexios I Komnenos after his enthronement in 1081. It is the highest after that of the emperor. Alexios Komnenos' elder brother Isaakios was first honored with it. It retained its significance in the XIIth c. as well, when the emperor's sons were honored with it.

Lit. Ferjancic, B. *Sevastokratori u Vizantiji*.-*ZRVI*, 11, 1968, 141-192; Kazdan, A. P. *Sevastokratory i despoty v Vizantii XII v.*-*ZRVI*, 14-15, 1973, 41-44; OBD, p. 1862.

666. Εἰρήνη (Κομνηνὴ) σεβαστοκρατόρισα (XII c.)

Historical Museum, Nova Zagora, no. 976. Find-spot: the land of the village of Karanovo, Nova Zagora region.
D. 30.5-32 (26) ? mm. Very good imprint and a bulla in a very good state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Нова Загора, № 2; Йорданов, Севаст, № 39; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 320.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || $\overline{\text{OV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ | ΚΟCΜ8ΤΕ | Κ8CΑΤΗΝΙΡΗ | ΝΗΠΑΡΘΕΝΕ | CΕΡΑϞΟΚΡΑΤΟ |

ΡΙCΑΝΕΙΡΗ | ΝΗΝCΚΕ | .C

+ Κόσμου τεκοῦσα τὴν (ε)ἰρήνην Παρθένε σεβαστοκρατόριC(σ)αν Εἰρήνην
σκέπ[οι]ς

ac) σεβαστοκράτωρ

667. Ἰωάννης Δούκας σεβαστοκράτωρ (XIII c.)

Private collection (Varna). Find-spot: discovered in the central part of northern Bulgaria. The lead seal is generally in a satisfactory state of preservation. D . 34-38 (30) 3-4.5 mm, W. 24.00 g. The obverse

contains a well-preserved bust of Christ Emanuel facing, although its surface was slightly damaged most probably by a mechanical strike which damaged the upper part of the seal. The inscription on the reverse is indistinct, in a poor condition and as a whole it seems this is a case of casting an original which renders the reading rather arbitrary.

Ed. Кънев, Н. Новооткрит севастократорски оловен печат от територията на Централна Северна България.- *Сб. В. Хараланов*, Шумен, 2008, 153-163.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of Christ, facing; wears chiton and himation; blessing (r. hand) and holding a scroll (l. hand). Sigla : $\overline{\text{IC}}-\overline{\text{XC}}$. Vertical inscription in two columns: \odot -ΕΜ-ΜΑ || N8-ΗΛ: Ἰ(ησοῦ)ς Χ(ριστὸ)ς ὁ Ἐμμανουήλ

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ CΡΦΡΑΓ | . . . VΡΟΥΕ . | ΚΛ ΓΡΑΦ | . . ΔΟΥΚΑCΕΡΑ |

CΤΟΚΡΑΤωΡ | . . . ΤΗΡ . . | . . ΑΝ . .

+ Σφραγ[ῖς κ]υροῦ ε[ὑ]κλ[εοῦς κ(α)ῖ] γραφ[ᾶς] Δούκα σεβαστοκράτωρ [καὶ]
τηρ[οῦ Ἰω]άν[νου]

In the publication cited above an attempt is made at attributing the seal to John Doukas Angelos, illegitimate son of despotes Michael II of Epiros and sovereign ruler of Thessaly (1268/71-1289/96).

At the present state of investigation I will refrain from commentary due to much indetermination.

ad) σεβαστοφόρος

An individual position, whose name is composed of the title σεβαστός and the verb φέρειν (carry) meaning a person who carries the emperor's flag and is his personal envoy or public crier announcing his enthronement. There are known analogies as early as the Roman empire from the time of Tiberios II (14-37), when the Sebastophoroi carried gonfalons with the image of the emperor (Guilland, R. *Le Sebastophore: ὁ σεβαστοφόρος*.- *REB*, 21, 1963, 199-207; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 308).

It is absent from the taktikon of Uspenskij (842-843), Philotheos (899) and Beneshevich (934-944). It is first presented in the taktikon of Escorial (-975), which gave grounds to assume that it was established between 963 and 975 (Oikonomides, *Listes*, S 263.11). It is of a fairly high rank, since it occupies the second place after the proedros from the positions intended for eunuchs (Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 303). It is assumed that the first titular was Romanos Lakapenos, son of Stephanos and grandson of Romanos I Lakapenos (921-944).

This personal position quickly developed into a title still in the XIth c., when it was held by many dignitaries charged with various duties in the Palace and subsequently by provincial officials as well (Oikonomides, *Evolution*, p. 127). It became obsolete and is not mentioned in the sources in the XIIth c. (its last mention is in one of Tzetzes' letters, Epistule, no 43, p. 63.12).

There are two seals of Sebastophoroi among the Byzantine seals from Bulgaria:

1. George, Sebastophoros and protovestiaris (no.266)
2. John, Sebastophoros and epikernis (no. 224)

ae) σιλεντάριος

A court office whose name derives from the literal translation of the Latin equivalent 'silentium', i.e. one who imposes silence among those present at the appearance of the

emperor. Silentarii were organized in a corps which acted as a military guarding unit in extreme situations, for example, the rebellion against Justinian I (527-565). It became a title. It is last mentioned in the taktikon of Philotheos (899) occupying one of the last positions after spatharios and mandatores. Its last mention is during the reign of Nikephoros II (963-969).

Lit. Bury, *System*, 24-25; Guillard, *Titres*, XVII, 33-46; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 296; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S. 318.

668. Ἰωάννης σιλεντάριος (VII-VIII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia (?). Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 20-20 (18) 2 mm. Very good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Мухомов, Печати № 29

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5).

Rev. Inscription of four lines :

+ΙΩΑ | ΝΝΗCΙΑ | ΕΝΤΑ | ΡΙΩ

+Θεοτόκε βοήθη Ἰωάννη σιλενταρίω

668A. Νικήτας σιλεντάριος (IX c.)

In a private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-23 mm. Good imprint. Cracked and chipped.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ || ..-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines :

+ΝΙΚ | ΗΤΑCΙΑ | ΕΝΤΑΡ | ΙΩΝ

+Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ [δού]λῳ Νικήτᾳ σιλενταρίῳ

af) σπαθάριος

A sword-bearer from the emperor's bodyguard initially consisting only of eunuchs and after the VIth c. of non-eunuchs as well. Toward the VIIth c., it was already a title which gradually descended the hierarchical stairs. It is not presented in the Escorial taktikon. Its last mention in the written sources is in 1075.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 112-113; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 297-298; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, 321-322.

669. Βαρβάρας σπαθάρισσα (IX-X c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest (from the former Papahagi's collection). Find-spot: Silistra region.

One side of a silver matrix-seal in the form of a sea-shell for stamping soft materials like wax or others.

Diameter of the engraved field: 13 mm.

Ed. Barnea, *Sigillii*, no 10.

No parallels known.

Obv. Unclear image.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+RAP | RAPACC | ΠΑΘΑΡ | ΕΑC

+ Βαρβάρας σπαθρέας

The owner of this silver seal is Barbara spatharissa, wife of a spatharios unknown to us. In contrast to the previous cases concerning imprints, this is a case of a proper seal for making imprints on a soft material, most probably wax. Such seals were in common use both in Byzantium and medieval Bulgaria mostly in the period IXth-Xth centuries. A similar seal is known having belonged to the Bulgarian ruler Micho Asen (1256-?), see Йорданов, *Копици*, c. 113, I.7.

Unlike the previous cases, the discovery in Dristra (provided it is authentic and the seal was not subsequently carried there) is evidence to the fact that the Barbara spatharissa in question sojourned in Dristra in person, where she lost her seal. Otherwise, it should be assumed that it was taken away from her and somehow reached Dristra for example as a booty. Silver never changes and is always valued.

The publisher of this proper seal proposes dating to the XIIth c., which in the light of the above information is open to criticism. Most probably the seal of the spatharissa Barbara should be dated to the IXth-Xth c. She was perhaps a widow who had to impress her correspondence on various occasions with the present seal.

670. Θεόδωρος σπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17604. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-26 (20) 3 mm.

W. 7.30 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 110.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔΟΝ | -ΛΩ-

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

- . - | ΘΕΟΔΩ | ΡΩCΠΑ | ΘΑΡΙΩ | -✕-

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Θεοδώρῳ σπαθαρίῳ

671. Ἰωάννης β' σπαθάριος (IX-X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14645. Formerly in the collection of Dinko Tanchev from Stara Zagora. Probable find-spot: Maritsa or Simeonovgrad. D. 20-21 (21) 3 mm. W. 7.70 g. Imprint in a superb state of preservation; some letters remained out of the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no.176.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two border of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗCΩΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

- - | ΙΩΑΝ| ΝΗΡ'Α'ΣΙΑ | ΘΑΡΗΟ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη το σῶ δούλ(ω) Ἰωάννη β'σπαθαρίω

672-676. Μισαήλ σπαθάριος (X-XI c.)

672. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2396. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-23 (22) 2 mm. W. 5. 54 g. Well-preserved, but incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 111.

673. RHM-Shumen, no. 14762. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav or Smjadovo. D. 24-24.5 (20) 2 mm. W. 6.30 g. Well-preserved, but incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 177.

674. RHM-Shumen, no. 14962/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 12.5-21.5 (?) 2 mm. W. 3.22 g. Fragment larger than a half, but holed at one side and suspended on a document.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 178.

675. RHM-Shumen, no. 14966/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-22 (20) 3 mm. W. 6.48 g. Complete imprint of subsequently effaced parts.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 179.

676. RHM-Shumen, no. 15254. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. D. 22-25 (22) 3 mm. W. 7.52 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 180.

The five specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Border of pellets within double border of dots. In center, a rosace forming a cross with equal arms. Circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Border of pellets within double border of dots. In center, a cruciform monogram, including the title: C Π Α Θ Ρ. In the quarters: ΜΙ-CA || Η-Λ

Joint and completed, the inscription on either side of the seal is the following:

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ε)ι τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Μισαήλ σπαθ(α)ρ(ί)ω

677. Νίκηφόρος β' σπαθάριος (650-750)

Archaeological Museum, Nesebar, no.191. Find-spot: the town (?). D. 22-23 (23 ?) 3.9 mm. W. 12.74 g. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

+ ΘΚΕΒΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩΔ | 8ΛΩC8

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΝΙΚΗΦ | ΟΡΩΒΑC | ΙΑΙΚΩCΠ | ...ΡΗΩ | - -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ δούλῳ σου Νίκηφόρῳ βασιλικῷ σπ[αθα]ρίῳ

Zacos Collection contains other bullae with the same text but different lettering having

belonged perhaps to the same individual (see Zacos, *Seals*, I, nos. 952-953).

ag) σπαθαροκανδιᾱτος

A title composed of the merging of σπαθάριος and κανδιᾱτος. It is first attested as a whole word in the documents from the first half of the IXth c. It is higher than spatharios and kandidatos taken separately, but is lower than protospatharios. It is not presented in the taktikon of Escorial. It had though limited distribution in the XIth c. as well. Its last mention in the sources is in 1093.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 26-27; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 292, 297, n. 60.

678-682. Ἀνδρέας β'σπαθαροκανδιᾱτος (IX-X c.)

678. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 31336. Offered for purchase by S. Zhechev from Shumen. Find-spot: the land of the village of Nadarevo. Archaeological excavations were later carried out there. D. 23-25 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

679. RHM-Shumen, no. 14810. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska ?. D.20-21 (20) 4 mm. W. 11.22 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 181.

680. RHM-Shumen, no. 14898/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D.20.5-21 (20) 3.9 mm. W. 9.22 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 182.

681. RHM-Shumen, no. 14898/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D.20-21 (20 ?) 3 mm. W. 10.74 g. Struck off-center; 4-5 mm displacement of the obv. in relation to the rev.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 183

682. RHM-Shumen, no. 15457. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-21 (?) 3 mm. W. 7. 94 g. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Unpublished.

The five specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: HC || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΑΝΔ | ΡΕΑΡΑCΙ | ΛΙΚΩCΠΑ | ΘΑΡΟΚΑ | ΝΔΗΔ'

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Ἀνδρέα βασιλικῷ σπαθαροκανδηδ(άτῳ)

The dating of the seal is generally to the IXth-Xth c. A bulla of an individual by the same name and title with a similar dating but a different position of hetaireiarches was discovered in the course of archaeological excavations in Preslav, see no. 350. A question poses itself: is it not one and the same person that is concerned?

683. Ἀργυρὸς β'σπαθαροκανδιᾱτος (IX-X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18421. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-25 (20.5) 3 mm.

W. 9. 95 g. Good imprint. The obv. is more effaced perhaps due to weak striking.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 112.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist blessing (r. hand) and holding a long cross (l. hand). Remains of vertical and circular inscriptions.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΑΡΓΥ | ΡΩΡ'СПΑ | ΘΑΡ'ΚΑΝ | ΔΙΔΑΤ' | οοο
+ Ἀργυρῷ β'σπαθαρο(ο)κανδηδάτ(ω)

684. Γρηγόριος β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X c.)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no.150. Found in the course of excavations of the kommerkia of Develtos, sector Γ-III, square 71, at a depth of 0.20 m. D. 7 21-22 (20) 3.5 mm. W. 9.89 g. Well-centered and well-executed imprint, but the letters on the rev. are indistinct. That is in a result perhaps of a subsequent wearing off of the bulla.
Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 9.
No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΓΡΗΓΟ | ΡΙΩΡ'СПΑ | ΘΑΡΩΚΑ. | ..ΔΑΤ'
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Γρηγορίῳ β'σπαθαρωκα[νδι]δάτ(ω)

685-689. Δαμιανός β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)

685. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 26234. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-26.5 (17 and 19) 2.5 mm. W. 9.93 g. Unsuccessful imprint. Folded in the boulloterion at the striking.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 113.

686. RHM-Shumen, no. 14214. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-27 (17 and 19) 3 mm. W. 9.46 g. Unsuccessful imprint. Folded in the boulloterion at the striking.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 114; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 184.

687. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 252. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 12-23 (17 and 19) 1.5 mm. Half of a good imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 115.

688. RHM-Shumen, no.14900. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Fragment larger than a half. D. 23-25 (21?) 4 mm. W. 8.50 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 185.

689. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 29211. Found in the course of excavations supervised by T. Mihailova in the so called Administrative building of Preslav, southern sector, square 11, on 1st June 2006. W. 7. 60 g. Half of an overstruck seal folded in two. Only casual deformed letters are visible from the understrike made in reverse direction.

Rev. Inscription of five or six lines:

... ΤΡΙ | | ΑΠ | | ΙС'

Unpublished.

The five specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Border of pellets within double border of dots. In center, a rosace forming a cross with equal arms.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1-4. + ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘ'ΔΑΜΙΑ | ΝΟΡ'СПΑΘ | ΑΡ'ΚΑΝΔΗ | ΔΑΤΟ
5. + ΚΕΡ . | .Θ'ΔΑΜ . . | .ΟΡ'СПΑ . | .Ρ'ΚΑΝ . . | .ΑΤΟ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Δαμιανο β'σπαθαρο(ο)κανδηδάτο

690-692. Θεόδοτος Στουπειότης σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (XI c.)

690. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18548. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-24 (over 21) 3 mm. W. 12.64 g. Incomplete imprint. Almost all initial letters remained out of the blank.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 116; Jordanov, F. Names, no.678.

691. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17697. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-23 (over 21) 2.5 mm. W. 10.15 g. Incomplete imprint, but nevertheless more successful than the above.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 17; Jordanov, F. Names, no.679.

692. Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna) Find-spot: Preslav ? D. 24-26 (22) 3.5 mm. W. 9.50 g. Incomplete and blurred imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no.679A.
The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
Parallels: Seibt-Zarnitz, no 3.2.7.

Obv. Bust of St. Menas, bearded, nimbate, wearing a divitision and a chlamys and holding a martyr's cross in front of his chest. Vertical inscription: O-A-ΓΙ-O' || M-H-N.-.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+| ΘΕΟΔΩ | Τ'СПΑΘΑ | ΡΟΚΑΝΔΔ' | ΤΟCΤ8ΠΙ | -ΟΤΙ -
+Θεόδωτ(ος) σπαθαροκανδ(ι)δ(ᾶ)τ(ος) ό Cτουπ(ε)ιότι(ς)

To supplement my previous publication I can add the lead die or seal published by Grünbard, M. Verbreitung und Funktion Byzantinischer Mettaltempel.- *Siegel und Siegler, Akten des 8. Internationalen Symposion für Byzantinische Sigillographie, , Berliner Byzantinische Studien, 7, Berlin, 2005, S.103 abb.6.* It is quite possible that it belonged to same individual.

693. Θεοφύλακτος β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15240. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska or Preslav. D.16-18.5 (over 19) 2.5 mm. W. 4.66 g . Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Porous surface. The letters of the inscription are in low relief and uncertain. This renders the reading uncertain.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 186.
No parallels known

Obv. Ornament of a band in the form of a rosette. Around it, a circular inscription:

+K ΔΟΝΑΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. . . . ΦV | ΛΑΚΤΩΡ | CΠΑΘΑΡ'ΚΑ | ΝΔΔΤΟ

+K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῶ] δούλῳ [Θεο]φυλάκτῳ β'σπαθαρο(ο)κανδ(ι)δ(ά)το

694-695. Ἰάκωβος β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (IX c.).

694. Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov, Elkhovo). Deposited by the police in the National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village Melnitsa, district of Elkhovo. D. 25-26 mm. Weak imprint, poorly preserved.

Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 28.

695. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to the collection of RHM-Shumen in December 2007). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 17.5-22 (20?) 3.8 mm. W. 8.96 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished

Both specimens were struck in a same bulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin, holding a medallion of Christ before her. No sigla. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

+ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘ.....

. CΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1. - ο - | ΙΑΚ | . ROR'CΠ | . ΘΑΡΟΚΑ | . ΔΙΔΑΤ' | +

2. - ο - | ΙΑΚ | OROR'CΠ | ΑΘΑΡΟΚΑ | ΝΔΙΔΑΤ' | +

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ[ει τῷ σ]ῶ δ(ούλῳ) Ἰακόβο β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτ(ω)

696. Ἰωάννης σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (end of X c.).

Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-22 mm. Weak imprint, but well-preserved.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a martyr's cross in r. hand.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | . ΩCΩΔ8' | . ΩCΠΑΘ | Ρ'ΚΑΝΔΔ'

[+K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῶ δού(λῳ) [Ἰ]ω(άννη) σπαθ(α)ρ(ο)κανδ(ι)δ(ά)τ(ω)

The dating is in conformity with the iconography of St. Theodore as a martyr, which is earlier than that as a warrior.

697. Ἰωάννης Θυλακᾶς σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (second half, XI c.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 4552. Found in the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda, Sliven region. D. 26-28

(22) 3.1 mm. W. 12.85 g. Poorly centered imprint. The imprint of the reverse is both off-centered and double-struck, which makes the reading difficult. The bulla itself is in a poor state of preservation and punctured with corrosion.

Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 15; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.238.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ.-.-K-O ||

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.. ΕΡ'Θ' | .CΠΑ | ...OKAN | ..ΤΩΘV | ΛΑΚ Α | - ο -

[+K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) [Ἰω(άννη)] σπα[θαρ]οκαν[δ(ι)δ(άτῳ)] τῷ Θυλακᾶ

In his review (*BZ*, 101, S. 822) W. Seibt supplements the cursus honorm proposed by me:

1. σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (mid-XI c.)

2. σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος, ἄσηκρῆτης καὶ κρητῆς Λικανδοῦ (1050s)

3. πατρίκιος, βέστης, ὑπάτος καὶ κρητῆς Ὀψικίου (1060s-1070s)

The highest to date in John Thylaka's career -

4. πατρίκιος, ἀνθύπατος, βέστης, ὑπάτος καὶ ἐπείκτης Ὀψικίου, but he failed to report where he had found this information.

698-699. Ἰωάννης Ρωμανάκης σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (XI c.)

698. RHM-Silistra, no.89. D. 25-26 (17) 3 mm. Well-centered and well-executed imprint, but made on an older bulla.

Ed. Йорданов, Silistra, IV, № 7; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.599.

699. RHM-Dobrich, no. I 1300. D. 22.5-23 (17) 3 mm. Good imprint made on an older bulla as the above.

Ed. Йорданов, Silistra, IV, № 8; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.600.

No parallels known.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion, besides, over bullae of one person, from which original strike one can still see:

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: | Θ.-.-I-K || .-.-A-O. Circular inscription within a border of dots. .ΕΡΟΗ

.....Δ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | Ω..... | ΑΙΕΠ...ΜΑ | ΓΓΛΑΡΙ8

[+] K(ύρι)ε βοήθ[ει τῷ σῶ] δούλ(ω) [Νικολά]ω καὶ ἐπ[ὶ τοῦ] μαγγλαβίου

We can identify this incomplete depiction and text with a bulla of the same characteristics also found in Silistra (see no.318 here).

Obv. Bust of St. Michael, beardless, wearing a divitision and a loros, holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus cruciger (l. hand). Sigla: M - X.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΙΩΑ | Ν'Ρ'CΠΑΘ' | ΚΑΝΔΔ'Τ' | ΟΡΟΜ | .

+ Ἰωάν(νης) β'σπαθ(αρο)κανδ(ι)δ(ᾶτος) ὁ Ρομ(α)[ν(άκης)]

700-701. Παλατῖνος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)

700. RHM-Silistra, no. 2 [363]. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 24-24 (20) 3 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation, but the obv. is worn off.

Ed. Њорланов, Силистра, II, № 12.

701. National Historical Museum, Bucharest (former Papahagi collection). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 23-23 (20) 3 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Banescu-Papahagi, Plombs, no 3.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription:.... || K-O-A'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ✕ - | ΠΑΛΑ | ΤΗΝCΠΑ | ΘΑΡ'ΚΑ | ΝΔΔ'

+ ✕ - | ΠΑΛ Α | ΗΝCΠΑ | ΑΡ'ΚΑ | ΝΔΔ'

+ Παλατῖν(ος) σπαθαρο(ο)κανδ(ι)δ(ᾶ)τος

The owner of the seal Palatinos spatharokandidatos is unknown from the narrative sources. The dating in the XIth-XIIth centuries proposed by Banescu-Papahagi should be corrected to the XIth c.

The available data are insufficient for any identification from the narrative sources. The Dumbarton Oaks Collection contains a seal of Palatinos imperial protospatharios and strategos of Taranta, dated X c. (see *DOS*, 4, no. 70.1).

If we accept that the owner is identical with the author of the correspondence to Dristra, the present seal reflects a later period in his career.

702. Στέφανος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-28 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Stephanos holding a small cross (r. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription:

.... || Φ-A

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ CTE | ΝΩCΠΑ | | ΚΑΝΑ

+ Σε(φ)ανω σπα[θαρο(ο)]κανδ(ι)[δ(ᾶ)τος]

703. Ν., σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-18 mm. A half specimen.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her chest.

Rev. Inscription of three or four lines:

..... | ΩCΠΑΘ. | Ρ'ΚΑΝΔΔ'

.....ω σπαθ[α]ρ(ο)κανδ(ι)[δ(ᾶ)τος]

704. Ν., Μακρῆς or Ν., Μαῦριξ σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρίκλινου (second half, XI c.)

Historical Museum, Panagjurishte. Found in the course of excavations in the Krasen stronghold in 1987.

D.18.5-18.5 (12.5) 3 mm. The right half of the text was non-printed and subsequently obliterated.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 424.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion on her breast. Sigla: \overline{M} || ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | .ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ...CΠΑΘ | ..ΝΔΔ'ΕΠΙ | ..ΧΚΛΤΩ | ΜΑΚΡ'

+ [Θ(εοτό)]κε β(οή)θ(ει) σπαθ(αρο) [κα]νδ(ι)δ(ᾶ)τος ἐπὶ [τοῦ]

χρ(υσοτρι)κλ(ίνου) τῷ Μακρ(ῇ) / Μαβρ(ίκη)

ah) στρατηλάτης

Initially it was a common term used for rendering the Greek *magister militum*. Later it became a title which evolved and in the VIIIth-IXth centuries it was of a rather low rank. At the end of the Xth c. it signified a commander of one of the corps of the tagmata.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 22, 133; Guiland, *Recherches*, I, p.385; Oikonomides, *Listes*, pp. 296, 332.

Θεόκτιστος στρατηλάτης (VI-VII c.) see no. 2264

705. Κοσμᾶ στρατηλάτης (VIII c.)

Archaeological Museum Nesebar, no. № 847. Find-spot: on the beach in the northeastern part of the peninsula in 1991. It was donated to the museum by Maria and John from Weymouth, Great Britain. D. 23.5-27 (21) 5 mm. W. 14.31 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation, although the letters are rather indistinct.

Unpublished.

No exact parallels. A published bulla of the same text but different arrangement of the letters is preserved in Zacos Collection (*Zacos*, *Seals*, I, no.904).

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕΟ | ΤΟΚΕΒΟ | ΗΘΙΤΩΔ | ΟΝΛΩ | C8

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΟC | ΜΑCΤΡ | ΑΤΗΛΑ | ΤΗ *

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθι τῷ δούλῳ σου Κοσμᾶ στρατηλάτ[η]

Its dating, according to the iconographic form τῷ δούλῳ σου, is to the late VIIIth c. It is impossible to determine who this Kosma was and to whom in Nesebar he sent his correspondence.

ai) στρατώρ

Shield-bearer. An office occupied by members of a special palace school in the VIth c., which already in the VIIth c. changed into a title of a rather low rank at that. It is presented in the taktikon of Uspenskij (842-843) and Philotheos (899). It disappeared from the sources and became obsolete in the Xth and the early XIth centuries.

Lit. Bury, *System*, p. 118; Guillard, *Recherches*, II, 478-480; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 298.

706. Γρηγορᾶς β'στράτωρ (VIII c.)

RHM-Targovishte. Find-spot: Istanbul, discovered by a tourist of the town. D. 27-28 (25) 4 mm. W. 17.42 g. Well-centered, but nevertheless incomplete imprint. Some letters are indistinct or subsequently effaced. *Unpublished.*
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

ΑΓΙΑΤΡΙ | ..ΟΘΗΜ | .NR.ΗΘΗ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ + - | ΤΩCΩΔ | ΟΝΛΩΓΡΗ | ΓΟΡΑΒΑC | ΛΙΚΩCΤ. |.....

+ Ἀγία Τρι[ας] ὁ Θε(ε)ς ἡμ[ῶ]ν β[ο]λήθη τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Γρηγορᾷ βασιλικῷ στ[ράτορι]

707. Θεοφύλακτος β'στράτωρ (IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14819. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: the vicinity of Pliska, according to its former owner (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). D.20-22 (18-19) 3 mm. W. 8.64 g. Well-centered and once a good imprint. Now cracked and almost broken along the channel. It seems it was struck during its discovery with a metal detector. The letters of the inscription are damaged and their reading is rendered difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 187.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:

+ΚΕΡΟΗΘ.ΤΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΕΟ | ΦΥΛΑΚΤ | ΟΡ'CTPA | ΤΟΡΙ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ[η] τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Θεοφυλάκτῳ β'στράτορι

708. Φωτεινὸς β'στράτωρ (IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14841. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Offered for purchase by N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain, southern Bulgaria, presumably Develt. In fact its origin may be Pliska, since it was brought along with the seal of Basil, logothetes of the genikon. D.24-26 (24?) 4 mm. W.12.68 g. Incomplete imprint due to the irregular shape of the blank. Most letters have survived, but are hard to decipher due to the thick layer of lead oxide.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 188.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines :

+ ΦΩ | ΤΕΙΝΩ | Ρ'CTPA | ΤΩΡ.

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Φωτεινῷ β'στράτωρ[ι]

709. Λέων στράτωρ(X c.)

Private collection (I. Mititelu, Romania). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 21-21(19) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. Worn-out surface. The relief of the letters is effaced, thus rendering the reading of the text difficult. The illustration offered by the authors is low-quality, thus still rendering the reading uncertain to date. Below, in addition to the reading of the authors, another variant has also been proposed, hypothetical to a great extent in view of the poor illustration, but nevertheless emending the inconsistencies of the original reading.
Ed. Mititelu-Barnea, no 5; Barnea, Deux gouverneurs, 239-245.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

| ΛΕΟΝΤ | . CTPAT | CΤPIH | NO|

| ΛΕΟΝΤ | I CTPAT | OPIAM | .N |

a) Λέοντ[ι] στρατ(ηγῶ) (Ἰ)στρηνο

b) Λέοντι στράτορι ἀμ[ή]ν

In the two cited publications of this seal, in addition to the proposed reading Λέοντ[ι] στρατ(ηγῶ) (Ἰ)στρηνο, there was also a commentary offered regarding both the person of the owner of the seal and the toponym. The author (I. Barnea) accepted the following: that this is a strategos of the theme Ἰστρηνός established by John Tzimiskes as a prototype of Paristrion after conquering northeastern Bulgaria in 971; that the Leo in question is identical with Leo patrikios and droungarios of the fleet left behind by the emperor to guard the capital Constantinople during this campaign.

Barnea's interpretations were subjected to criticism by various authors mostly from Bulgaria (Bozhilov, Tapkova), who emphasized the historical inconsistencies of his propositions. Laurent and Oikonomides proposed alternative readings. The first one is close to the above (see Laurent, *BZ*, 1967, S. 328) and the second launched the idea that the patronym (Ἰ)στρηνο was inscribed in the last two lines (see Oikonomides, *VR*, XII, p. 68, n. 41).

At the present stage of research, being unable to work with the original, I should not comment on the opinions and data. I will only note that the overall appearance of the seal, the additional elements in the engraved field (above and below) point to a dating in the early Xth c., thus making Laurent's proposition seem most acceptable.

710. Σισίνιος στράτωρ (VIII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 30-30 (28) 3mm. Good imprint, but bulla in a poor condition. Some letters are indistinct or subsequently effaced.
Ed. Мухомов, Печати № 30

ai) στράτωρ

Shield-bearer. An office occupied by members of a special palace school in the VIth c., which already in the VIIth c. changed into a title of a rather low rank at that. It is presented in the taktikon of Uspenskij (842-843) and Philotheos (899). It disappeared from the sources and became obsolete in the Xth and the early XIth centuries.

Lit. Bury, *System*, p. 118; Guillard, *Recherches*, II, 478-480; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 298.

706. Γρηγοράς β' στράτωρ (VIII c.)

RHM-Targovishte. Find-spot: Istanbul, discovered by a tourist of the town. D. 27-28 (25) 4 mm. W. 17.42 g. Well-centered, but nevertheless incomplete imprint. Some letters are indistinct or subsequently effaced. *Unpublished.*
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:
ΑΓΙΑΤΡΙ | ..ΟΘΗΜ | .NR.ΗΘΗ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:
- + - | ΤΩCΩΔ | ΟΝΛΩΓΡΗ | ΓΟΡΑΒΑC | ΔΙΚΩCΤ. |.....
+ Ἀγία Τρι[ας] ὁ Θε(ε)ς ἡμ[ῶ]ν β[ο]νήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Γρηγορᾷ βασιλικῷ
στ[ράτορι]

707. Θεοφύλακτος β' στράτωρ (IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14819. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: the vicinity of Pliska, according to its former owner (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). D.20-22 (18-19) 3 mm. W. 8.64 g. Well-centered and once a good imprint. Now cracked and almost broken along the channel. It seems it was struck during its discovery with a metal detector. The letters of the inscription are damaged and their reading is rendered difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 187.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:
+ΚΕΡΟΗΘ.ΤΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:
ΘΕΟ | ΦΥΛΑΚΤ | ΟΡ'CTPA | ΤΟΡΙ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ[η] τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Θεοφυλάκτῳ β'στράτορι

708. Φωτεινὸς β' στράτωρ (IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14841. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Offered for purchase by N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain, southern Bulgaria, presumably Develt. In fact its origin may be Pliska, since it was brought along with the seal of Basil, logothetes of the genikon. D.24-26 (24?) 4 mm, W.12.68 g. Incomplete imprint due to the irregular shape of the blank. Most letters have survived, but are hard to decipher due to the thick layer of lead oxide.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 188.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines :

+ ΦΩ | ΤΕΙΝΩ | Ρ'CTPA | ΤΩΡ.
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Φωτεινῷ β'στράτωρ[ι]

709. Λέων στράτωρ (X c.)

Private collection (I. Mititelu, Romania). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 21-21(19) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. Worn-out surface. The relief of the letters is effaced, thus rendering the reading of the text difficult. The illustration offered by the authors is low-quality, thus still rendering the reading uncertain to date. Below, in addition to the reading of the authors, another variant has also been proposed, hypothetical to a great extent in view of the poor illustration, but nevertheless emending the inconsistencies of the original reading.
Ed. Mititelu-Barnea, no 5; Barnea, Deux gouverneurs, 239-245.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

| ΛΕΟΝΤ | . CTPAT | CTPIH | ΝΟ|
| ΛΕΟΝΤ | Ι CTPAT | ΟΡΙΑΜ | .Ν |
a) Λέοντ[ι] στρατ(ηγῶ) (Ι)στρηνο
b) Λέοντι στράτορι ἀμ[ή]ν

In the two cited publications of this seal, in addition to the proposed reading Λέοντ[ι] στρατ(ηγῶ) (Ι)στρηνο, there was also a commentary offered regarding both the person of the owner of the seal and the toponym. The author (I. Barnea) accepted the following: that this is a strategos of the theme Ἰσθρινός established by John Tzimiskes as a prototype of Paristrion after conquering northeastern Bulgaria in 971; that the Leo in question is identical with Leo patrikios and droungarios of the fleet left behind by the emperor to guard the capital Constantinople during this campaign.

Barnea's interpretations were subjected to criticism by various authors mostly from Bulgaria (Bozhilov, Tapkova), who emphasized the historical inconsistencies of his propositions. Laurent and Oikonomides proposed alternative readings. The first one is close to the above (see Laurent, *BZ*, 1967, S. 328) and the second launched the idea that the patronym (Ι)στρηνο was inscribed in the last two lines (see Oikonomides, *VR*, XII, p. 68, n. 41).

At the present stage of research, being unable to work with the original, I should not comment on the opinions and data. I will only note that the overall appearance of the seal, the additional elements in the engraved field (above and below) point to a dating in the early Xth c., thus making Laurent's proposition seem most acceptable.

710. Σισίνιος στράτωρ (VIII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 30-30 (28) 3mm. Good imprint, but bulla in a poor condition. Some letters are indistinct or subsequently effaced.
Ed. Мушмов, Печати № 30

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5).

Rev. Inscription of three lines :

+ | C I C I N I | Ω B ' C T P | A T O P I | +
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη Σισινίω στράτορι

The publisher of the bulla could not decipher correctly the text probably due to the defects noted above. He assumed that Sisinius was β'πρωπρετορ, which is obviously incorrect. The dating proposed by the author is acceptable, but narrowing it within the VIIIth c. will seem appropriate, since the invocative monogram inscribed without the addition TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ and the close B point to that.

aj) ὕπατος

A consul, which, after the dissolution of the consulate in 541, was an ordinary title. In the IXth c., it was not of a very high rank and in the Xth c., it became obsolete. It reappeared in the XIth c. (after 1040s) but already in combination with other titles: dishypatos, patrikios and protospatharios.

Lit. Bury, System, 25-26; Brehier, Institutions, 104-105; Oikonomides, Listes, p. 296.

711. Ἐλευθέριος ὕπατος (second half of the XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nesebar, no. 2138. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialo). D.13-15 (11?) 3.5 mm. W.3.83 g. Well-centered and complete but weak imprint. Oxidated surface. All that renders the reading difficult.

The reading proposed below is to a certain extent a figment.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ Κ Ε | Ρ Ο Η Θ ' | Τ Ω C Ω | Δ 8 Λ Ω

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ Ε Λ Ε V | Θ Ε Ρ Η | Ω Ν Π Α | Τ Ω

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἐλευθερίῳ ὑπάτῳ

712. Ἰωάννης ὕπατος (VIII-IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15165. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 161. Find-spot: Plovdiv region. D. 31-32.5 (28) 5 mm. W. 26.10 g. Large imprint with letters in high relief.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 189.

No parallels known.

Obv. Invocative cruciform monogram (Pl.I.5). In the quarters: TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ Ι Ω | A N N H | Y . A T | Ω +

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰωάννῃ [ὑ]πάτῳ

713-714. Ἰωάννης Φιλοκάλῃς ὕπατος (second half, XI c.)

713. Private collection (E. Kosev from Shumen). Find-spot: Preslav? D. 21-22.5(17) 3 mm. On the whole, complete imprint in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 735A.

714 RHM-Shumen, no. 15456. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 19-21.5(17) 3 mm. W. 6.18 g. On the whole, complete imprint and well preserved.

Unpublished.

Both specimens were struck in a same bulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with the medallion of Christ on her chest. Sigla:

Μ || Θ : Μ(ήτηρ) Θ(εοῦ).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ Θ Κ Ε Ρ ' Θ ' | Ι Ω Ν Π Α Τ ' | Τ Ο Φ Ι Λ Ο | Κ Α Λ '

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἰω(άνν)η ὑπάτ(ω) το Φυλοκάλ(η)

715. Νικήτας ὕπατος (VIII c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-24 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Speck, Bleisiegel, nos 173-174.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

..... | . Ε C Ω Z . | Π Ο Λ Ε Ω C | Β Ο Η Θ Ι

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

Τ Ω Δ Ο | V Λ Ω C O V | ..K H T A | ..A T Ω

[Θεοτόκ]ε Σωζ[ου]πόλεως βοήθι τῷ δούλῳ σου [Νι]κήτα [ὑπ]άτῳ

The most interesting element in this seal is the epithet Σωζ[ου]πόλεως to the missing Virgin. According to the publishers of the Berlin specimens, it should be associated with the name of the town Σωζουπόλεως on the Black sea or in Pisida, where there must have been a renown icon of the Virgin which Niketas referred to for protection. The hypatos Niketas must have been born or lived in some of these towns. The discovery of his bulla in Bulgaria tips the dilemma in favor of Sozopolis on the Black sea coast. Speck thinks that it was in Asia Minor, but the discovery of the seal in Bulgaria is evidence, though circumstantial, in favor of Sozopolis on the Black sea.

Another seal with this epithet was offered at the auction Gorny & Mosch. Auction 160, 9 October 2007. Lot number: 2836

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ | Θ Ε Ο Τ Ο | Κ Ε C Ω Z | Ο Π Ο Λ Ε Ω | C Β Ο Η Θ Ι | +

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ Θ Ε Ο Δ Ο | C Ι Ω C Π Α | Θ Α Ρ Ι Ω Δ 8 | Λ Ω Χ Ρ Ι C | Τ Ο V

+Θεοτόκε Σωζοπόλεως βοήθι Θεοδοσίῳ δούλῳ Χριστου

OFFICES AT THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE EMPIRE

It presents seals of officials from the separate departments in the capital through which the vast Empire was governed. The departments have been arranged following V. Laurent's scheme established in his *Le Corpus des sceaux de l'empire byzantin. Tome II: L'administration centrale*. Of course, the data from the seals (since their number is still limited) are insufficient to restore the whole governing apparatus. For the same reasons, the need for presenting the activity of all departments becomes irrelevant.

Short introductory information has been given only for those offices whose seals have been presented.

1. The Imperial Chancery

One of the most important offices in Byzantium, through which the emperor realized his policy. A countless number of manuscripts would be written daily in it: legislative and administrative decrees, deeds of covenant, letters to foreign rulers, etc., i.e. all that was necessary for the existence of a state organism.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 96-97; Brehier, *Institutions*, 167-168; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 310-311; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, p.3, 5.

a) Πρωτοασηκρήτης

Head of the imperial chancellery. He was among the most trusted people of the emperor, who was in close contact with him for the solving of various questions. His duties involved the final proofreading of the emperor's decrees. Of course, the first versions were prepared by persons and offices competent in the respective field.

(*Lit.* Bury, *System*, 96-97; Brehier, *Institutions*, 167-168; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 310-311; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, p.3, 5). From the analysis of the written sources after 1106, we learn that the protoasekretis was no longer a head of the imperial chancellery, but a chairman of the Great Tribunal in Constantinople (Oikonomides, *Evolution*, p. 131, n. 36-37).

Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος, πρωτοασηκρήτης καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου
(on him, see no. 859)

716-717. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πριμικήριος καὶ πρωτοασηκρήτης (X c.)

716. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 408. Found in the course of excavations in Develtos, sector Γ-II, square 76, at a depth of 0.60 m. D. 22-22 (20) 3 mm, 7.20 g. Good imprint, but struck slightly off center to the upper half. The bulla itself is well preserved.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девет*, № 11.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

717. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 106. Found in the course of excavations in Develtos, sector Γ-III, square 12. D. 12-22 (20) 6 mm. Once a superb imprint, now only a half preserved. Broken along the channel.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девет*, № 10.

Obv. In center, a cruciform monogram (Pl. I. 17), consisting of K, Y, P, I and E. Circular inscription beginning at 12 o'clock: ROHΘEITΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- - - |+ KΩ . | CTAN . . . | PRIM . . . | SA'ACH | K . . . | - - -

- - - |+ KΩN | CTANT'R'A' | PRIMIKHP' | SA'ACH | KPH'T' | - - -

+ Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Κωνσταντίνῳ β'πριμικηρ(ίῳ) (καὶ)
πρωτοασηκρήτη

In the publication cited above, the proposed dating is in the early Xth c., considering the environment in which the bullae were discovered (a closed complex dated until 913 or 917), the overall appearance of the bullae and the paleography of the letters. Although the name Constantine was very common, still the office protoasekretis placed it in the focus of attention of the chroniclers or statesmen of that time.

One of the letters of Patriarch Nicholas I dated the second half of 913 is addressed to Κωνσταντίνῳ πρωτοασηκρήτη (see **Nicholas**, *Epistule*, no. 146), and an attempt has been made for an identification of this correspondent with Κωνσταντῖνος ὁ τῆς Μαλελίας (see **Nicholas**, *Epistule*, p. 581 and **Jenkins**, **R. J.H.** Three documents concerning the "tetragamy".- *DOP*, 16, 1962, 239-241).

Two other letters from 944 and 955 report the name of Κωνσταντίνῳ πρωτοασηκρήτις τῷ Κόμβῳ (see **Nicetas Magistre**, nos. 19, 22).

We cannot be absolutely sure whether the owner of the Develtos seals could be identified with some of the above, since the seals of this time did not record the patronym. However, the coincidence in the name of the titular and the time should not be overlooked.

718. Στυλιανὸς Ἰασίτης ? πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πρωτοασηκρήτης (XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 1320. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 19-20 (18) 2.1 mm, W. 4.82 g. A well-centered but, as it seems, a weak imprint, subsequently obliterated. The bulla itself is holed in the middle and probably used as a weight (perhaps as a ring of a spindle). Due to the incomplete imprint the reading of the text, especially the last two lines, is problematic. We assume that the position is inscribed on line 4 and the patronym on line 5. From the two available letters, one of which contains an abbreviation sign T'I..., I have assumed a possible inscription of the family name Ἰ[ασίτ(η)].

Ed. Йорданов, *Силистра*, IV, № 20; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 242.

No parallels known.

Obv. Hardly discernible outlines of an ornamented Greek cross. The end of the invocation is also visible:.....OYΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | CTVAI | ANΩA'CI | ΘAP..K. | A'ACH... | T'I...

[+ K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δ]ούλῳ Στυλιανῷ (πρωτο)σπαθαρχ[ίῳ] κ[ε]
(πρωτο)αση[κρ(ή)τ(η)] τ(ῷ) Ἰ[ασίτ(η)]

b) ἀσηκρήτης

719. Μουσῆλιος β' ἀσηκρήτης (VII-VIII c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest (from the former collection of N. Banescu). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 23-23 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Banescu**, *Colectie*, 115-116, pl. I.1; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 18.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 662a-b. Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Eagle with open wings, head r. In field above, between wings, cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.O. | CHΛΙΩ. | ACI ΛΩΙΚΩ | ACHKP. | THC

[+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη [M]ο[υ]σηλίῳ [β]σιλικῷ ἀσηκρ[ῆ]της

The separate publications offer different reading and dating: Banescu deciphered the homonym as [Bα]σηλίῳ insted of [M]ο[υ]σηλίῳ and proposed dating to the VIIth c. It was confirmed by Laurent as well, while Zacos proposed a chronological frame between 650 and 750.

720. Ἀναστάσιος ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 66. Found by treasure hunters (Valentin Zhekov from Novi Pazar) in the stronghold near the village of Skala, Silistra region, in the fall of 1986. D. 23-27 (18) 2 mm. Off-center, made in the lower half of the blank.

Ed. Йотов-Атанасов, *Скала*, c. 125, № 1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ KΕ | ROHΘ. | TΩCΩ | Δ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ANAC | .ACIΩ | .CHKP' | THC

+ Κύριε βοήθε[ι] τῷ σῶ δούλ(ῳ) Ἀνασ[τ]ασίῳ [ἀ]σηκρ(ῆ)της

721. Γεώργιος Μαλεῖνος ? ἀσηκρήτης (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 13580. Offered for purchase by Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen, which suggests an origin from northeastern Bulgaria (Preslav or Silistra). D. 17.5-18 (16.6) 2.5 mm. W. 4.16 g. Well-centered, but indistinct imprint. The reading of the patronym is problematic. From the insecure letters TΩMA | .H.ON, various names are possible to read.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 409; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 190

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡ. | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8ΟV | ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- - | ΓΕΟΡΓ | ΑCHKPH | ΤΩΜΑ | Ι.ΟΝ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β[ο]ήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Γεοργ(ίῳ) ἀσηκρή[τ(η)] τῷ Μα[λε]ῖ[ν]ον

722. Θεόγνωστος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρῆτις (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15128. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 124. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 19-20 (19 ?) 3 mm. W. 6.92 g.

Ed. *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 191.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

... || Κ-Ο-Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ÷ - | + ΘΕΟ | ΓΝΩCT'A' | CΠΑΘ'SAC | KPITI | - ÷ -

+ Θεόγνωστ(ος) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) ἀσ(η)κρῆτις(ς)

723. Θεόδωρος ὑπατος καὶ β' ἀσηκρῆτις (IX c.)

Private collection (Asen Hadgikostov, from Stara Zagora). Find-spot: Nesebar (Mesembria). D. 25-26 (24) 5 mm. W. 15. 20 g. Well-centered, but damaged imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΕΟΔ | ΩΡΩVΠ. | SB'ACH. | PHT.

+Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Θεοδώρῳ ὑπ[ά(τω)] (καὶ) β' ἀση[κ]κρήτ[η]

A specimen of the same text but a different lettering is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (58. 106. 5313). Its publisher (*Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 15) dated it to the VIIth c. (?) and identified it with Theodore asekretis, who assisted at a session of the VIIIth Oecumenical Council in 869-870 (see *Mansi*, coll. 16.341E, D110. M35, where noted is only Θεόδωρος ἀσηκρῆτις). The dating of the seal is from the mid-IXth c. to its second half. It is not certain whether he can really be identified with the above asekretis.

724-726. Θεόδωρος ἀσηκρῆτις (X-XI c.)

724. RHM-Silistra, no. 55. Find-spot: the town. D. 22-25 (18) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, large portions from the dies did not print. The bulla itself is in a poor state of preservation, corroded and holed. A fragment missing. Cracked circumference.

Ed. *Йорданов, Силистра*, II, № 14.

725. RHM-Silistra, no. 45. Find-spot: the town. D. 22-25 (18) 3 mm. The imprint was once in a good condition almost completely printed, but the bulla itself is poorly preserved. Broken into two parts. Erased surface. Some letters are not very distinct.

Ed. *Йорданов, Силистра*, II, № 15.

726. RHM-Dobrich, no. I 866. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 24.5-25.5(18) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint, as with no. 724. The blank was displaced in the boulloterion due to off-striking. Only portions of the dies printed.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕ | ROHΘ I | ΤΩCΩ | Δ8Λ' | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΕΟ | ΔΩΡΩΑ | CHKPH | THC

+ Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Θεοδώρῳ ἀσηκρῆτης

727. Ἰωάννης ἀσηκρῆτις (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.82. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15.5-17.52 (15?) 3 mm. W. 3.36 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons. No visible circular inscription.

Rev. Inscription of four lines.

+ΙΩ. | .HCA | C..P | .T.

+ 'Ιω[άνν]ης ἀσ[ηκ]ρ[η]τ[η]ς

728. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ἀσηκρῆτις (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15465. Former collection of N.Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 19-23.9 (19 ?) 2.5 mm. W. 6. 58 g. Incomplete imprint due to the irregular shape of the blank. Overstruck or doublestruck.

Unpublished.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons. Circular inscription: + ΚΕΡ CΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines.

+KON | .TANT'R' | .ΠΑΘ'KAN | .Δ'SACH | .PHT

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β[ο]ήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Κον[σ]ταντ(ίνω) β'[σ]παθ(αρο)καν[δ(ι)]δ(ά)τω (καὶ) ἀση[κ]ρῆτ(ης)

729-729A. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρῆτις (X-XI c.)

729. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.187. Find-spot: Silistra. It was offered at the Museum by A. Nikolov from Silistra in 1976. D. 24-28 (28?) 2 mm. W. 7.63 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

729A. RHM-Shumen, no. 15464. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-23.5 (19) 2.9 mm. W. 6. 14 g. Incomplete imprint. Worn surface on the obverse.
Unpublished.
Both specimens were struck in a same bulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist. Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Ω-ο || Π-ΡΟ-Δ'.
Circular inscription along the circumference: + Κ ΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔ'
Rev. Inscription of four lines:
- ο - | ΛΕΟΝΤ | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | SACHKP | THC |
- ο - | . ΕΟΝΤ' | . 'CΠΑΘ' | . . CHKP | TIC | - ο -
+ Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Λέοντ(ι) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) ἀσηκρήτης

730-732. Μανουήλ σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)

730. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 16694. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-21 (18) 4 mm, W. 7.80 g. Good imprint in a poor state of preservation covered with thick oxides.
Ed. Ёорданов, Преслав, № 118.

731. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17552. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 14-22 (18) 3 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.
Ed. Ёорданов, Преслав, № 119.

732. Private collection. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav ? D. 18-21 mm. Complete and well-preserved specimen.
Unpublished.
The three specimens were struck in the same bulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
+ ΘΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘΕΙ | ΤΩCΩ | Δ8Λ'
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
MAN' | ΗΛCΠΑΘ' | Κ8RK8Λ' | SACH | ...Τ'
+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Μανουήλ σπαθ(αρο)κουβ(ι)κουλ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) ἀση[κρή]τ([η])

733. Μιχαήλ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-28 mm. Incomplete imprint.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John Chrysostom blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).
Rev. Inscription of four lines:
.... | MIXAHΛ | ACHKPH | TIC
..... Μιχαήλ ἀσηκρήτης

734. Μύρων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 25[1665]. Find-spot: at the town. D. 20-20 (over 23) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint, but bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Ёорданов, Силистра, II, № 9.
No parallels known.

Obv. Monogram: from the central letter Θ radiate eight spokes each ending with a letter: R-C-ΙΕ-Λ-Ω-T-Ω-Δ-K: Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ
Rev. Inscription of four lines:
+MVPO | NIR'Α'CΠ. | ΘAP'SACI | KPHTI
Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Μύρον β'(πρωτο)σπ[α]θαρ(ίῳ) (καὶ) ἀσηκρήτι

A bulla perhaps of the same dignitary but struck with a different pair of dies is preserved in Fogg A. M. Collection no. 259 (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 86).

735. Νικήτας Μιτυλήναιος ἀσηκρήτης (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21570. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-25 (19) 2 mm. Well-centered imprint, cracked along the channel.
Ed. Ёорданов, Преслав, № 120; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 470.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Niketas facing, with nimbus, beardless face and short curly hair resembling a crown. He holds a martyr's cross before his chest. Vertical inscription:
Θ-... || T-A-C
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ NIKH | T'Α.HKP' | T'TΩMITV | AVNAI | Ω
+ Νικήτ(α) ἀ[σ]ηκρ(ή)τ(η) τῷ Μιτυλυναίῳ

736. Στέφανος ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. From the former collection of P. Papahagi. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 25-25 (23) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, only the central part of the dies printed. The bulla itself is in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Barnea, Dorostolon, no. 8.
No parallels known.

Obv. Indeterminate bust of a saint with short curly hair (St. Stephanos?). The inscription recording his name is not visible.
Rev. Inscription of four lines:
.ΚΕΡ. | .. ΕΦΑ.. | ..HKP.. | .ΛΙΡ.
[+] Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει) Στ]εφά[νῳ ἀσ]ηκρ[ήτη]

737. Στέφανος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἀσηκρήτης (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.153 (former collection of V. Haralanov from Shumen) Find-spot: Silistra ?

D. 23-28.5 (27) 2 mm, 7.58 g. Incomplete imprint.
Unpublished.
No parallels known

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔΟΝ | -ΛΩ-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:
.ΤΕ | .ΑΝΩΑ' | .ΠΑ.ΑΡ' | ...ΗΚ.
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ [Σ]τε[φ]ανῳ (πρωτο)[σ]πα[θ]αρ(ίῳ) [(καὶ)
ἄσ]ηκ[ρ(ήτη)]

с) γραματικός

Θεόδωρος γραματικός (VI-VII c.) see no. 2417.

738. Εὐμάθιος Φιλοκάλης γραματικός (second half, XII c.)

Historical Museum, Kazanluk, no. 4. Find-spot: uncertain, Kazanluk region. D. 30-30 mm. After its "conservation" in the workshop in Turnovo, it is now in an awful condition. The image and letters are better visible on some twenty year old plaster cast of the same molibdobulla preserved in the collection of T. Gerasimov before it was cleaned.

Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 734.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 55.1. 3962) (see *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 1192).

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a long spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription in two columns:

O-A-ΓΙ-ΟC || ΔΙ-ΜΙ-ΤΡ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:
+ | CΕΡΑΨΟΠΑ | Π..ΤΩΝΓΡΑ | Φ.Ν ..ΑΘΙ8 | ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΙΚ8 | CΦΡΑΓΙCΜΑΤ8 |
ΦΙΛΟΚΑΛΗ |
+ Σεβαστοπάπ[που] τῶν γραφ[ῶ]ν Ε[ὐ]μαθίου γραματίκου τοῦ Φιλοκάλη

d) μυστικός

An office attested in the IXth c. and preserved as a term until the end of the Empire. The first mystikos was Leo Choirosphaktes (*Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 116), and the last one Manuel Phialites from the beginning of the XVth c. (*Laurent, Corpus*, II, p. 50).

Its character is hard to define. Proceeding from the term μυστικός, investigators assume that its titular was an emperor's man of confidence who handled the secret correspondence.

It is not presented in the taktikon of Philotheos (899), since the functions of the mystikos were fulfilled by the protoasekretis, but it is already present in the later taktika of Beneshevich (934-944) and the Escorial (975). The mystikos was at the head of a sekreton with subordinate notarioi (*Oikonomides, Listes*, 324, B 249.31; S 271.26). We learn from other sources dated to the XIth c. that the sekreton headed by the mystikos also passed sentences, hence it had judicial functions as well (*Guilland, R. Le mystique.* - *REB*, 26, 1968, 279-286). On the basis of extant documents (imperial acts, prostagma, typika etc.) dated until the mid-XIIth c., it can

be accepted that the mystikos held a high degree of responsibility for the palace and public treasury, especially during the emperor's absence from Constantinople. In this capacity, he controlled both regular and extraordinary payments to clerics and government officials (see *Magdalino, P.* The not-so-secret functions of the mystikos. - *REB*, 42, 1984, 228-240).

739. Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μυστικός (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: the village of Eleshnitsa, Plovdiv region. D. 22-23 (over 22) 4.1 mm. Incomplete imprint. Whole lines of the text remained out of the blank.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

.. | I | ..CΩ | .8ΛΩ | -✕-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | Α'CΠ... | Ρ'SMV. | ΤΙΚΩ | -✕-

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ]ει [τῷ] σῷ δούλῳ [.....] (πρωτο) σπ[αθα]ρ(ίῳ) (καὶ) μυ[σ]τικός

740. Εὐστάθιος Σινωπείτος μυστικός (XII c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-23 (?) 2.5 mm, W. 7.9 g. Incomplete and indistinct imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 652A

Parallels: *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 125; *Seyrig*, no. 109 and two unpublished specimens from Zacos, III.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

. | ΤΟV | CΙΝ. | ΠΤ..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.. | ΠΙΚΟ. | ΕΥΨΑ | ΘΙΟV

[+] Τοῦ Σιν[ω]πεί[του] μυ[σ]τικο[ῦ] Εὐσταθίου

741. Ἰωάννης Φασουλᾶς βέστης καὶ μυστικός (last quarter of XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 41. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-27.5 (27) 4 mm. W. 9.74 g. Well-centered imprint in a poor state of preservation. Unclear images and letters which renders the overall reading difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans without medallion on her chest. Sigla:

MP || ΘV : Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | CΚΕΠΟΙC | ΔΕCΠΟΙΝΑ | ΜΡΟΠΑΡΘΕΝ' | ΚΟΡΗΡΕCΤΗΝ | ..C8ΛΑΝMV

| .ΤΙΚΟΝ | - ΙΩ -

+ Σκέποις, δέσποινα μ(ητρο)πάρθεν(ε), Κόρη, βέστην [Φα]σουλᾶν

μυστικὸν Ἰω(άννην)

For the career of this dignitary, see no. 496 here, where he bears the title of proedros.

742-743. Νικηφόρος μυστικὸς (XII c.)

742. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 239. Find-spot: the town of Pomorie (ancient Anchialos), Paleokastro locality. D. 21-22 (22) 3 mm. W. 8.08 g. In my publication cited below, it was noted that the seal was preserved in the museum in Pomorie, which is obviously a mistake. The seal was offered for purchase at Archaeological Museum Sofia by K. Dimitrov from Burgas in 1989.
Ed. Йорданов, Аңхиало, № 12.

743. RHM-Shumen, no. 15065. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 61. Find-spot: Fakija, Burgas region. D. 16-24 (?) 3 mm. W. 5.42 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 192.
Parallels: Further two specimens struck with the same pair of dies are preserved in Istanbul (Ebersolt, Constantinople, no. 441; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 123) and Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 58. 106. 1978).

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-NI-KO- || Λ-A-O-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

742. + CΦΡΑ | ΓΙCMAΓΡΑ | ΦΩNMV⁹Π | K.VNIKH | ΦOP8

743. . . ΦΡΑ | . ICMAΓΡΑ | . ΩNMV⁹Π | . . VNIKH | . OP8

+Σφράγισμα γραφῶν μυστικ[ο]ῦ Νικηφοροῦ

The dating of the bulla, according to its iconography, text and paleography of some letters (C+T= ⁹), is to the beginning of the XIIth c. at the earliest. The owner of the seal, who held the effective position of a mystikos, wrote to an addressee unknown to us in Anchialos. The data are insufficient for any identification.

Proceeding from the known XIIth-century office-holders, father Laurent assumed that the owner of the seal covers the persons of Νικηφόρος Βορβηνός, a participant at a session of the synod on May 12th 1157 (*PG*, 140, col. 177D; Sakkelion, *P.M.*, p. 316) or Νικηφόρος Σερβλίας, John Tzetzes' correspondent (see Tzetzes, *Epistulae*, no. 8). Although that is not impossible, this identification still cannot avoid the question why their patronyms are not inscribed on their seals, since the other narrative sources report them by their family names.

It seems more likely that the owner of the seal is identified as the mystikos Nikephoros who lived in the XIIth c. and was the author of the typikon of the monastery τῶν Ἡλίου ἤτοι τῶν Ἐλεγκῶν in Bithynia drawn up in 1162 (see Димитриевский, *Τυπικα*, c. 715, and for the monastery, see Janin-Darrouzes, *Grands centres byzantins*, 142-148). In the extant documents, he signed as + Ὁ δοῦλος τοῦ κραταιοῦ καὶ ἁγίου ημῶν βασιλέως ὁ μυστικὸς (see *N. Ell.*, 18, 1924, p.5).

ε) μυστογράφας

An office similar to the above. It was used instead of mystikos in the surviving sources until X-XIth c. They were first noted separately in the taktikon of Escorial. They have similar

functions.

Lit. Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 325; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, p. 60.

744. Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, β'νοτάριος, κριτὴς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδόμου καὶ μυστγράφας (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-28 mm. Complete and a well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 310.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist. Vertical inscription in two columns:

Θ-ΙΩ - ο || Π-ΔΡ'Μ'

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ'ΙΩΑ'CΠΑΘ' | ΕΠΙΤ'ΧΤΚΛ' | R'NOT'KPIT' | ΕΠΤ.ΙΠΠΔΡ' | M8SMVCT' |
ΓΡΑΦΟ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) Ἰω(άννη) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ)
χρ(υσο)τρ(ικλίνου) β'νοτ(αρίω) κριτ(ῇ) ἐπὶ τ[οῦ] ἵππ(ο)δρ(ό)μου (καὶ)]
μυστ(ο)γράφας

ϛ) μυστολέκτης

An office difficult to define connected with the imperial chancery. It is similar to myistikos and mystographos. It has been assumed that it applied to a person who knew a certain lawsuit in detail and reported it to the minister or emperor. As with the above cases, it was to a certain extent honorific position combined with other titles or positions, most often legal.

Lit. Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 325, m. 223; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, p. 70.

745. Κωνσταντῖνος Σπονδύλης πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου καὶ μυστολέκτης (XI c.)

Passed on by the police for investigation and purchase at the National Historical Museum, Sofia, where I examined and documented it. Find-spot: undetermined. D. 27-29 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 668

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Panteleimon facing. Circular inscription: ΑΓΙΕΠΑΝΤΕΛΕΙΜ'

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

ΚΩΝ'Α' | .ΠΑΘ'ΕΠΙ | .ΧΤΡΓΚΛ | .PIT'T'RI | ...MVCT' | .ΕΚΤ'ΤΩ | .ΠΟΝΔ'
+ Ἀγιε Πανταλείμ(ον βοήθει) Κων(σταντίνω) (πρωτο)[σ]παθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ
[τ(οῦ)] χρ(υσο)τρικλ(ίνου) [κ]ριτ(ῇ) τοῦ βί[λου] (καὶ)] μυστ(ο)[λ]έκτ(η) τῷ
[Σ]πονδ(ύλῃ)

g) πρωτονοτάριος / νοτάριος

Notarii a secretis - a class of ἀσηκηῖται at the imperial chancery. The office of πρωτονοτάριος has remained obscure provoking discussions. According to some

investigators, when πρωτοασηκρήτης and πρωτονοτάριος are enumerated in the sources, the latter is protonotarios of the dromos (Vogt, *Comentaire*, I, 36-37; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 311, n. 130).

According to others however, it was normal for a group of νοτάριοι to have thier πρωτονοτάριος who was subordinate or independent of πρωτοασηκρήτης (see Laurent, *Corpus*, II, p. 77).

The confusion stems from the fact that, since νοτάριοι are a class of ἀσηκρήται, πρωτοασηκρήτης is their chief and thus the position of the protonotarios is superfluous. But, as we will discuss it below, a great number of seals are known bearing only the position of imperial protonotarios. Another problem is the fact that each department of the Empire had both a protonotarios and a notarios in their staff. They should be distinguished from those of the imperial chancery. The former were ordinary officials subordinate directly to the titular of the respective department, while the latter served at the imperial chancery and were quite often assigned tasks by the emperor (Bury, *System*, p. 98; Brehier, *Institutions*, 166-167). With the seals, however, they cannot always be distinguished, having been both β'νοτάριος, and we can rely only on any additional information available on them; otherwise, we accept as a rule that they are officials from the imperial chancery.

746-747. Δρόσος πρωτονοτάριος (second half, IX c.)

746. RHM-Shumen, no.13509. Purchased by Slavcho Nikolov Grozev from Shumen. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D. 24-26 (22) 3 mm. W. 9.30 g. Bulla in a good state of preservation, but incomplete imprint, especially on the reverse. This was the reason for the incorrect deciphering of the homonym in the original publication.

Ed. Йорданов, *Анхиа̀ло*, № II.2; Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 193.

747. Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: Pliska ? D. 21-26 (22) 3 mm. Very good imprint and specimen.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Zacos, Seals, I, no. 1860, having belonged perhaps to the same dignitary, but struck with a different pair of dies.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) . ΔΡΟ | СΩΠΡΟ | ΤΟΝΟΤ | ΑΡΙΩ

b) +ΔΡΟ | СΩΠΡΟ | ΤΟΝΟΤ | ΑΡΙΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Δρόσῳ προπονοταρίῳ

The emendation in the reading of the text does not change the dating of the seal. The name is rather unusual and some additional information on his person should be found, all the more that he wrote to addressees located in various settlements of medieval Bulgaria.

The name of this dignitary is not familiar to me from the narrative sources.

Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 122, no 3 has presented a bulla of an individual by the same name:

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram, as above.

Rev. ΔΡΟСΩ | ΚΑΝΔ' SXAP | ΤΟΝΛΑΡ' TIC | ΘΡΑΚIC

Its dating, despite the unclear illustration, is generally to the second half of the IXth c.

Another bulla was found in the ancient theatre of Sparta in 1924 (*SBS*, 2, p. 253, no.70):

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram, as above.

Rev. ΔΡ.Ω | Α'СΠΑ.Κ' | ΧΑΡΤ..8 | ..IN.....

Its dating is similar to that of the seal presented above.

If we accept that these three groups of seals and ours belonged to one person, the question of their chronology arises. The possibilities are two: our seal to be earlier or later. The latter seems to me more likely. Drosos, formerly occupying various provincial offices, was appointed to serve in the central administration in his capacity as protonotarios. His position was sufficiently elevated in the hierarchy so that there was no need for him to inscribe his titles, which presumably did not match the rank of his position. In the taktikon of Philotheos, to which period the present seal is generally dated, the similar titulars are anthypatoi and patrikioi.

It will be more interesting for us to determine who was the possible addressee of Drosos, protonotarios, in Pomorie (Anchialos) and Pliska.

Writing to Anchialos is a matter of course. After 862, the town was again within the boundaries of the Empire and it was quite natural for a protonotarios from the central administration to sent his correspondence there.

To whom in Pliska did he write?

A great number of Byzantine seals dated to the period 870-893 were discovered in Pliska. There is also doubling of bullae having belonged to individuals who sent their correspondence to some border fortresses: Sozopolis (see no. 426-427), the kommerkia of Develtos (see no. 604, 1150) and the capital Pliska. Perhaps the reasons for that differ with each case. But in any case, these individuals were connected with other individuals in Bulgaria and on its frontiers.

The bullae of Drosos, protonotarios, discovered in Anchialos and Pliska should be dealt with in this connection.

He could have written to the chancery of the archbishop of Bulgaria in Pliska; however, if we adopt the above hypothesis that he was protonotarios of the dromos, it could be assumed that his correspondence was in connection with some embassy exchanged between Bulgaria and Byzantium generally in the context of Bulgarian-Byzantine relations.

748. Θεοδόσιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πρωτονοτάριος (X c.)

Private collection (Kl. Atanasov from Burgas). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-20 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint and specimen in a poor state of preservation. While the first three lines are more distinct, the last are preserved only in outline, as a result the restoration of the position is hypothetical.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription:|| Κ Ο -Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΕΟ. | .ΗΩС. | .ΠΑΘ' SA' | .ΟΤΑΡ'

+ Θεο[δ(ό)σ]ηως [β'(πρωτο)σ]παθ(άριος) (καὶ) (πρωτο)[ν]οτάρ(ιος)

749. Μάξιμος ? πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πρωτονοτάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15154. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 150. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 13.5-15 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 4.20 g. Subsequently trimmed along the circumference as it seems the image on the obv. was meant, which damaged the inscription and the reading is rendered difficult.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 194.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of a saint with curly hair and nimbus.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.AZIM . | .CΠAΘA | . . ANΩ. | . . .

[M]άξιμ[ο(ς)] or [Δ]άξιμ[ο(ς)] (πρωτο)]σπαθά[ρ(ιος) (καὶ)] (πρωτο)νω[τάριος]

750. Στέφανος πρωτονοτάριος (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24573. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21.5-23.5 (20 ?) 3 mm, W. 7.53 g. Well-preserved but incomplete imprint, as a result the reading of the text is rather tentative, the dilemma being whether Stephanos was a notarios or protonotarios.

Ed. **Йорданов, Преслав**, № 114.

No parallels known

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription:Ι.Ω....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.CTE | .ANO. | .NOT. | ΠΙΩ | - ο -

[+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθε]ι [τ]ῷ [σ]ῷ δούλῳ] Στε[φ]άνο [(πρωτο)]νοτ[ά]ρίῳ

751-753. Βασίλειος Χαλκούτζης νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

751. Private collection (Ivan Yotov, Yambol). Find-spot: uncertain, as the preceding. D. 15-25 mm. Half missing.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 10; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 743.

752. Private collection (Ivan Yotov, Yambol). Find-spot: uncertain, either from the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda or the village of Melnitsa. D. 25-25 mm. The strike was well-centered, but not raised and legible.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 9; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 742.

753. RHM-Shumen, no. 15230. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. Dim. 20-22 (21) 3.5 mm. W. 6.34 g. Good and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 195.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion. The combined reading of the total text is via comparison of the two.

No parallels known

Obv. Poorly preserved bust of St. Basil blessing with r. hand and holding a book (l. hand)

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) . . .R' . | RACIA' . | NOTAP. | TΩXA . | K'T'

b) . . . R'Θ' | . . . ΙΑ'R' | . . . API | . . XAA | . T'

c) + K'ER'Θ' | RACIA'R' | NOTAPI | TWXAA | - K'T'-

+K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Βασιλ(είῳ) β' νοταρί(ῳ) τῷ Χαλκ(ού)τ(ζη)

754. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15462. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23-25 (17) 2.9 mm. W. 7. 12 g. Incomplete imprint. The imprint is made perpendicularly to the channel. Parts of the dies printed only on the channel swelling. The overall reading of the text is not very problematic.

Unpublished.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

..... | | ΛΟΚΩΝ | CTANT' | - N . -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.... | ΘΑΡ'K . . | ΔΔ'SN'TA | ο PHΩ ο | - ο -

[+ K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού]λο Κωνσταντ(ί)ν[ω β'σπα]θαρ(ο)κ[αν]δ(ι)δ(ά τῳ) (καὶ) ν(ο)ταρήῳ

755. Λέων Χρυσοβαλαντίτης νοτάριος (XI c.)

Private collection (Zh. Biulbiulev, Harmanli), offered for purchase at the Historical Museum, Yambol. Find-spot: Silistra, according to its owner. D. 20.5-24 (21) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, which however does not cause the problems in the reading. On line 2, the position of this dignitary is written out rather unusually. The idea that strikes me is that the engraver has mistaken the places of the first two letters in the negative die. Due to the incomplete imprint, the patronym also presents certain problem in the reading.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 755.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of a beardless saint facing, with nimbus and heavy curls, wearing a himation. He blesses with his r. hand before his chest and holds (l. hand) unclear object resembling a scroll. Remains of the vertical inscription: .-.-.- || Λ-Ε-.-.- = [Θ-ΠΑΝ-TA] || Λ-Ε-[IM-ON'] ?

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | ΛΕONT. | ONTA... | TXRA.. | N'T.

Λέοντ[ι] (sic) νοτα[ρίῳ] τ(ῷ) Χ(ρυσο)βα[λα]ν(τί)τ[η]

756. Λέων νοτάριος (?) (XI c.)

Private collection. It was given to me to document by Mr. Valentin Dimitrov from Haskovo. Find-spot: Blesna Fortress near Dimitrovgrad. D. 15-16 mm. W. 4.54 g. Weak superficial imprint, especially the letters of the text whose reading is more a matter of imagination.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Blesna, no. 13.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of an indeterminate beardless saint with nimbus, himation and short curly hair. He blesses with his r. hand in front of his chest or holds an indistinct object.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+MAP | TVCROH | .. ΩNTI | .OTAPI | Ω
+ Μάρτυς βοή[θι Λ]έωντι [ν]οταρίω

757. Νικήτας β'νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.13648. Find-spot: Silistra? D. 23-26 (20) 3.5 mm. Incomplete imprint and bulla in a poor state of preservation. Surface covered with incrustations. A piece broken.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, I, № 15.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΘΚΕ | ROHΘ. | .ΩCΩ | ..ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ NI | KHT. | .NOT. | PHΩ

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ[ι τ]ῷ σῷ [δού]λῳ Νικήτ[α β']νοτ[α]ρήω

758-759. Νικήτας νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

758. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: generally Northeastern Bulgaria. It entered the museum's collection through me. I had obtained it from Valentin Zhekov Varbanov then from Novi Pazar. D. 23-24 (15) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint due to displacement between the obverse and reverse resulting perhaps from the looseness of the dies in the boulloterion. The bulla itself is perforated to the left of the Virgin's head.
Unpublished.

759. RHM-Shumen, no. 15236. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-22 (20) 2.5 mm. W. 5.06 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zheкова, no. 196.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with a medallion on her chest. Circular inscription:..... ΤΩCΩ Δ'

Rev. A cruciform invocative monogram recording the name: NHKITA. In the quarters : NO-TA || PI-Ω

[+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει] τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Νικήτ[α] νοταρίω

760. Νικιφόρος νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21544. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-25 (22) 2.5 mm, W. 7.24 g. Incomplete imprint, perhaps due to looseness of the boulloterion.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 123.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of a military beardless saint (St. Prokopios) holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). No epigraph.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΚΕΡ'. | .ΩCΩ.. | .ΙΚΗΦ. | PONOTA | - PHO -

[+] Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)[θ(ει) τ]ῷ σῷ [δού(λῳ) Ν]ικηφ[ό]ρο νοταρήω

761. Στέφανος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου ἑξακτωρ καὶ β' νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15491. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: Melnitsa. D. 18-20 mm. Well-centered and well-preserved but incomplete imprint. It seems a piece was cut from it. All that renders the reading difficult.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown military saint (St. George) facing, holding a spear (r. hand). Trace from vertical inscription: Θ- . . . || Ω-.-Γ...

Rev. Inscription of five or six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΤΕΦΑΝ'Α' | . . ΑΘ'ΕΠΙΤ | ..ΡΙΚΛ'ΕΞ | . . ΩΡ'SR'N |

+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) [Σ]τεφάν(ω) (πρωτο)[σπ]αθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ)
[χρ(υσο)τρικλ(ίνου) ἑξ(α)[κτ]ωρ (καὶ) β' ν[οταρίω]

h) ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου

A high-ranknig official at the imperial chancery, warden of the imperial inkstand with purple ink. He controled the content of the imperial acts and by his signature guaranteed their authenticity. He had no assistants. He was first attested in the IXth c. under Michael III (841-867) when magistros Theoktistos was appointed ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου (for him, see his seal no. 839 as logothetes of the Dromos).

Lit. Dölger, Diplomantik, S. 50-65; Oikonomides, Listes, p. 311; Laurent, Corpus, II, p.101.

762. Μιχαήλ Ἀγιοθεοδωρίτης ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου (XII c.)

Historical Museum Nesebar, no. 2161. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialo). D. 14-28 (26) 3 mm. W. 5.93 g. Fragment smaller than a half of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Further two specimens from the same boulloterion were preserved in Fogg A. M., no. 345 and Istanbul, no. 201 known see **Laurent, Corpus**, II, no. 225.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

. | CΦ . . | ΓIC . . . | ΠΙΤ | ΚΛ . . .

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. . . ΑΗΛ | . . . ΑΓΙ | . . . ΔΩ | . . . 8

+ Σφ[ρα]γίσ[μα ἐ]πὶ τ[οῦ] κανι[κλ]ί[ου] Μιχ[α]ήλ [τοῦ] Ἀγι[ο]θεο[δω]ρί[του]

Another seal of Michael Agiotheodorites as a private person was found in Pomorie (see **Jordanov, Анхиало, II.8; Jordanov, Family Names**, no. 12). The discovery there of a second specimen of inscribed position illustrates the standing interests of this high-ranking official in a person located in Anchialos (for his person and official career, see **Jordanov, Family Names**, no. 12).

i. λογαριαστής

Financial official who functioned primarily as controller of expenses. Logariastai served in various departements and also of a private individuals (*ODB*, 1244-1245)

762A .Μιχαήλ ἀσηκρῆτης καὶ λογαριαστής τοῦ προέδρου (XI c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad [I 2009]). Find-spot: Southern Bulgaria. D. 25.5-24 (20) 3.1 mm.
W. 14.31 g. Well-centered and complete imprint, damaged on the obverse.
Unpublished.

Obv. +ΘΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘΕΙ | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΑCHKPI | -Τ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΣΛΟΓΑ | ΡΙΑCTH | Τ8ΠΡΟΕ | ΔΡ8 | - -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Μιχαήλ ἀσηκρῆτης καὶ λογαριαστῇ τοῦ προέδρου

Michael must have been a logariast of a higher official, a proedros. It may be the period when the proedros was a position and it could refer to Basil Lakapenos.

j) ὁ ἐπὶ τῶν δεήσεων

A head of the department of petitions. He is successor of the ancient *magister memoriae*. An independent official from the imperial chancery, whose office was earliest attested in Uspenski (842-843) and on seals from the VIIth c. Its department had as its task to receive, classify and check up all complaints addressed to the emperor and possibly to answer some of them certainly on behalf of the emperor. The significance of this office was great based on the fact that every citizen in Byzantium was free to refer to the emperor in person and to seek his justice. Despite being a lawyer, he never headed a law department. This position is combined with others in the province mostly on seals. In this case, it could be assumed that these were delegates of the capital department or emperor's envoys dispatched for a limited period of time to check up a single or a group of complaints.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 77-78; Guillard, R. Le Maitre des Requetes.- *Byzantion*, 35, 1965, 97-118; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 322; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, p. 110.

763. Ν., β'σπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν δεήσεων (IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 896. In the inventory book it is noted that it originates from Rodosto and entered the museum's collection on 29th June 1920. A plaster cast is preserved in Prof. Gerasimov's collection. It was made before 1947 and, as noted, was from the collection of T. Markov from Hisarya. I obtained the same information from I. Dzhambov, the then curator of the museum in Hisarya. Perhaps the bulla was replaced in the inventory book during the numerous shiftings and checks of the museum stock. D. 26-30 (28 ?) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint. Portions of the monogram and letters remained out of the blank. The bulla itself is in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); Preserved in the lower half:

|| Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.... | ΙΑΝΩΡ' | .ΙΤ'ΣΤΩΝ | ΔΕΗC

[+Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ] δού(λῳ Μαρ)ιανῶ β'[σ]π(αθαρίῳ) (καὶ) τῶν
δεήσ(εων)

The proposed restoration of the homonym is only one possible variant. The dating of the seal is generally to the first half of the IXth c.

764. Μιχαήλ β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν δεήσεων (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14681. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D.26.5-28 (24) 3 mm, W. 10.70 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 197.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand). Sigla: .. || X-H-Λ.

Remains of a circular inscription:CΩΔ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ MIXA | ΙΑΡ'Α'CΠ.. | ..Τ8XP... | .ΕΠΤΟΝ | ΔΕΗCΩ

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ]σῶ δ[ούλῳ] Μιχαὶλ β'(πρωτο)σπ[αθ(αρίῳ ἐπὶ) τοῦ
χρ(υσο)[τρικ(λίνου) (καὶ)] ἐπ(ι) τὸν δεήσ(ε)ω(ν)

2. Fiscal Departments

a) γενικὸς λογοθέτης

A financial fiscal office, at the head of which was γενικὸς λογοθέτης. Its functions were connected with assessing and collecting the land taxes with a jurisdiction over the whole territory of the empire, and also with collecting other revenue such as taxes, duties, etc.

Its earliest mention in the written sources is in the year 692, when the monk Theodotos, whose malpractice precipitated the fall of his patron Justinian II (685-695), was appointed to this post. It undoubtedly existed under this name earlier, perhaps for a whole century, since there are titulars known by their seals dating from VIth-VIIth centuries.

Both forms γενικὸς λογοθέτης; λογοθέτης τοῦ γενικοῦ or only γενικὸς occur in texts and on seals.

Of course, like other offices, it also evolved, expanding or restricting the range of its functions. Since the beginning of the IXth c. it had acquired special importance. The kommerkiarioi, by that time under the control of the logothetes of the Praetorian Prefect, were attached to it (see Bibicou, *Douanes*, 171, 178, 219).

The logothetes genikos had a large staff of assistants and their subordinates in order to be able to successfully fulfil the numerous complicated tasks of this department, which functioned as a real Ministry of Finance. Some of its assistants were the following:

1) χαρτουλάριοι μεγάλοι τοῦ σεκρέτιου, charged with the task to keep the cadasres of the available land of the Empire;

- 2) χαρτουλάριοι τῶν ἀρκλῶν, charged with the task to keep the archives of the cadastres for every provincial dioiketai;
- 3) ἐπόπται τῶν θεμάτων – inspectors of the cadastres in the respective themes;
- 4) κομμερκιάριοι, charged with collecting and accounting for the tenth-percent tax on the distribution and sale of goods;
- 5) διοικῆται – tax-collectors collecting the land tax in their dioiketai;

The office of the logothetes genikos was retained in the XIth c. as well, but its control over all fiscal lands was reduced. It again acquired certain importance in the XIIth c. Its last mention is in 1341.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 86-90; Guiland, *Logothete*, 11-24; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 313-314; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, 129-130; Oikonomides, *L'evolution*, p. 135.

More of 66 bullae of more than fifteen different logothetai of the genikon have been discovered from the territory of modern Bulgaria. Their find-spots are interesting to note:

The greatest number, over 30 specimens come from the kommerkia of Develtos. It is fairly logical. The kommerkia is directly subordinate to the genikos logothetes and it regularly accounts for the kommerkion collected in it.

The seals from Sozopolis (no. 813) and from the village of Galabovo, Stara Zagora region (no. 823) are perhaps also connected with life in the Byzantine Empire.

The discovery in Pliska more of 20 bullae of at least of ten officeholders should constitute a point of departure. Their correspondence was received mostly at a time when Pliska was the Bulgarian capital. It is an illustration of the relationship between the Bulgarian state and Byzantium.

The situation in Preslav is rather different. The number of seals is almost the same as in Pliska but most of them belonged to one person and are dated to the Xth c. when Preslav was a capital city.

765-768. Βασίλειος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

765. RHM-Shumen, no. 1209. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 22-22 (20) 2.5 mm; W. 8.55 g. Excellent style of engraving, very good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 5; Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 8; Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 198

766. RHM-Shumen, no. 14842. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: land of the village of Marash near Preslav. D. 21-22 (20) 3-4 mm. W. 8.76 g. Complete imprint, slightly off-center; the blank seems to have slipped in the boulloterion. Cracked in the upper part along the channel.

Ed. Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 9. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 199

767. RHM-Shumen, no. 14954/3. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 13-20 mm; W. 7.10 g. Fragment larger than a half.

Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 200

768. RHM-Shumen, no. 14964/3. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 10-21 (20) 3 mm. W. 3.76 g. Fragment smaller than a half.

Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 201

The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Алексеевко, Херсонского архива, с. 181, № 17. It was struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Along the border of dots circular inscription:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Above the inscription, a bird (an eagle) flying, facing downward. Below the inscription, a globe or a sphere on two fleurons.

Inscription of four lines:

+ ΡΑCΙΑΕΙΩ | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ'CΓΕ | ΝΙΚΩΛΟΓΟΘ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Βασιλείῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) γενικῷ λογ(ω)θ(έ)τῃ

769. Ἐλισεῖος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19275. Found in the course of excavations of the site of the Southern Gate of the Inner City, square B4. D. 22-24 (22?) 2 mm. 6.00 g. Incomplete imprint. A large portion of the dies did not print.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 126.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription along the circumference:

.....ΘΕΙ...ΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΕΛΙCΕ | ΩΑΝΘΥΠ' | ΑΤΡΙΚ'Ρ'.. | ΠΑΘ'C Γ.. | Κ'ΛΟ...

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ]ει [τῷ σ]ῷ δούλ(ῳ) Ἐλισέῳ ἀνθυπ(άτῳ) [π]ατρικ(ίῳ)

β'[(πρωτο)σ]παθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) γ[εν(ι)]κ(ῷ) λο[γ(ω)θ(έ)τῃ]

The new aspects in the present publication are the following:

a) the restoration of the homonym: instead of [M]ΕΓΙCΘ|Ω - [+] ΕΛΙCΕ | Ω (see Seibt, *BZ*, 89, S.135);

b) shifting the dating to the first half of the Xth c.;

c) relating the correspondence not with the Strategia of Preslav but with the earlier capital period of Preslav, when a department of the Bulgarian central administration functioned in the area of the Southern Gate of the Inner City and maintained direct contacts with the Byzantine capital (see Jordanov, *The Preslav Corpus*, p.27).

The homonym Ἐλισεῖος suggests an Armenian origin. I do not know of a dignitary bearing this name from the written sources.

770-781. Θεόδωρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (end of the IX c.)

770-776. They were struck in the same pair of dies and come from the kommerkia of Develtos.

Ed. Йорданов, Девет, № 15-22; Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 12-18.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Inscription between two borders of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. ∴. |+ ΘΕΟΔΩΡ | ΩΡ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | CΓΕΝΙΚΩΛ' | ΓΟΘΕΤΗ |. ∴.

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Θεοδώρῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) γενικῷ λ(ο)γ(ω)θ(έ)τῃ

777. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 89. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 21.5 - 22.5 (?) 2.5 mm. W. 6.47 g. Incomplete imprint. The bulla itself is chipped at the upper end and cracked along the channel.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 23; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 19

No parallels known.

Obv. As above.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕ. | ΔΩΡ'Ρ'Α'. | ΠΑΘΑΡ'ΣΑ | ΟΓΟΘ'ΕΤ8 | ΓΕΝΙΚ'

+ Θε[ο]δώρ(ω) β'(πρωτο)[σ]παθ(αρίω) (καὶ) λογοθ(έτη) τοῦ γενικ(οῦ)

778. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 147. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 22 - 23 (?) 2 mm. Broken into two pieces.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 24; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 20.

No parallels known.

779. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 149. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 22 - 22 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 7.75 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 25; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 21.

No parallels known.

Obv. As above.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. + . | + ΘΕΟΔΟ | ΡΩΡ'Α'СПА. | ΣΓΕΝΙΚΩ |

+ Θεοδώρ β'(πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίω)] (καὶ) γενικῶ [λογοθ(έτη)]

780. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 115. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 21 - 21 (20) 3.5 mm. W. 7.75 g. Specimen in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 26; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 22.

No parallels known.

781. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 415. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 19 - 21 (?) 3 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 27; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 23.

No parallels known.

Obv. As above.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕΟΔ | ΟΡΟΡ'Α'С | ΠΑΘΑΡ'С. | ΕΝΗΚΟ. | ...Θ .

+ Θεοδόρο β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) [γ]ενηκο [λογο]θέ[τ(η)]

The twelve bullae presented above belonged to one person: Θεόδωρος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης. They accompanied at least twelve of his communications to the kommerkia of Develtos. This correspondence must have been of official nature. However, taking into consideration the active receipt of the correspondence and the fact that the titular here was a certain Θεόδωρος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος, ἐξάκτωρ καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ γενικοῦ (on him, see DOS, 1, no. 76.1) generally in the IXth-Xth centuries, it could be assumed that it is the same dignitary, but at a later stage of his career. That presupposes a private nature for a part of his correspondence: to his successor or acquaintance.

782. Θεόδωρος πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (end of the IX c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, either from Pliska, Preslav or Develt. D. 20-20 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 24.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Inscription between two borders of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩΣΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΕΟΔΟΡΩ | ΠΑΤΡ'Ρ'Α'С. | . ΘΑΡ'ΣΓΕΝΙ. | .. ΓΟ....

+ Θεοδώρ πατρ(ικίω) β'(πρωτο)σ[πα]θα(ρίω)] (καὶ) γενι[κ(ῶ) λο]γο[θέτη]

If the owner of the seal is the same as of the above specimens, it reflects a later stage in his career.

783-785. Ἰωάννης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

783. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 198. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 19 - 21 (17) 3.5 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 28; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 25.

784. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 199. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 20.5-21 (17) 3.5 mm. Complete imprint in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 29; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 26.

785. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 410. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 19.5- 20.5 (17) 3.1 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 30; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 27.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Inscription between two borders of dots:

Rev. Inscription of five:

. ∴. | + ΙΩΑΝΝ' | ΑΝΘΥΠ'ΠΑΤ | Ρ'Ρ'Α'СПΑΘ' | ΣΓ ΝΗΚΟ | ΛΟΓΟΘ' | . ∴ .

+ Ἰωάνν(η) ἀνθυπ(άτω) πατρ(ικίω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω)] (καὶ) γενηκο λογοθ(έτη)

786-788. Λέων πριμικήριος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

786. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 108. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 21-21 (20) 2 mm. Incomplete and poorly-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 31; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 28.

787. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 413. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 21-21 (?) 2 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 32; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 29.

788. Private collection (V. Pantelev, from Varna). Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 22-22.5 (21) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint struck off center, but in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт-Addenda, no. 8; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 30.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in Zacos Collection. Its publisher dates it to the early Xth c. (Zacos, Seals, II, no. 210).

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

+ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝ | .ΡΗΜΙΚ' | .Α'CΠΑΘ' | .ΕΝΗΚ'Λ | ..ΟΘΕ |

+ Λέον [π]ρημικ(ηρίω) [β'](πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω)] (καὶ) [γ]ενηκ(ῶ) λ[ογ]οθέ(τη)

The owner of the seal Λέων πριμικήριος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης, who sent at least two communications to the kommerkia of Daveltos was an eunuch. His titles are πριμικήριος and β'πρωτοσπαθάριος. If we accept the order in which they are inscribed on the seal, πριμικήριος should be the higher, according to the rules; while they are in reverse order in the Taktikons of the time: πριμικήριος is lower than β'πρωτοσπαθάριος (see Oikonomides, Listes, p. 292, 300).

789. Λέων πριμικήριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to collection of Regional Historical Museum, Shumen (XII 2007). Find-spot: Pliska outer city. D. 13.5-22 (18) 2 mm. W. 3. 70 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Potent cross on three steps. Circular inscription beginning on left:

+ΚΕΡΟΗΘ'Τ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. ΛΕΟ | . . ΗΡ'ΠΡ | . . ΗΚΙΡ' | . . ΝΗΚ | . . ΓΟΘ | . . Η

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τ[ῶ] σ[ῶ] δούλ[ω] Λέο[ντ]η β'πρ[ημ]ηκιρ(ίω) [(καὶ) γε]νηκ(ῶ) λο[γ]οθ[έτ]η

It is difficult to say whether the owner of the seal had anything in common with his namesake and owner of the same title presented above.

790-798. Λέων ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

a) πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης.

790. Archaeological Center, Develt, no.279. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 20-20.5 (18) 2.6 mm. Well-centered, but nevertheless incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 33; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 31

791. Archaeological Center, Develt, no.405. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 19.5-21 (18) 2 mm. W. 7. 35 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 34; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 32.

The both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

792. RHM-Shumen, no. 14902. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 18.5-20 (over 20) 3-4 mm. W. 7.76 g. Incomplete imprint. The circular inscription was cut. The blank on the reverse must have slipped in the boulloterion. The surface of the boulloterion is worn out and the relief of the letters is rather effaced and blotted.

Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 33; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 202.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Inscription between two borders of dots

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΩΝ | Τ'ΠΑΤΡΙΚ'Ρ' | Α'CΠΑΘΑ' | ΛΟΓΟΘΕ'Τ | ΟΝΓΕΝΙΚ'

792. ΛΕΩ . | . ΠΑΤΡ . | .Ρ'Α'CΠ. | .ΓΕΝ... | .ΓΟΘΕ.

+ Λέωντ(ι) πατρικ(ίω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίω)] (καὶ) λογοθέ(τη) τοῦ γενικ(οῦ)

b) ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης:

793-795. They were struck with the same pair of dies and come from the kommerkia of Develtos.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 35-37; Jordanov, Fiscal, nos. 34-36.

No parallels known.

Obv. As above.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝ | Τ'ΑΝΘΥΠ' | ΠΑΤΡΙΚ'Ρ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'ΣΛΟΓ' | ΟΘ'Τ'ΓΕΝ'

+ Λέωντ(ι) ἀνθυπ(άτω) πατρικ(ίω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) λογοθ(έτ)η
τ(οῦ) γεν(ικοῦ)

796-798. They were struck with the same pair of dies and come from the kommerkia of Develtos.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 38-40; Jordanov, Fiscal, nos. 37-39.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in Zacos Collection. Its publisher dated it to the late IXth or the early Xth century (see Zacos, Seals, II, no. 202).

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Circular inscription along a border of dots

ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' ΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝΤ' | ΑΝΘΥΠ'ΠΑΤ | ΡΙΚ'Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'C ΓΕΝΗΚ' | ΛΟΓΟΘΕ'Τ'

+ Λέωντ(ι) ἀνθυπ(άτω) πατρικ(ίω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) γενηκῶ
λογοθέτῃ.

Did the seals presented above belong to one dignitary? What was their chronology?

There are no substantial objections against the assumption that the owner of the three groups of seals is one individual. Clearly the first group, where Leo is just a patrikios, is the earliest. We cannot determine with any certainty however the chronological connection between the next two groups of seals, where he is already anthypatos. It could be assumed that the second group (nos. 796-798), with the invocation on the obverse not placed between

two borders of dots and the ligature writing of 8, is later.

We cannot be absolutely sure whether Λέων πριμικήριος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης, the owner of the seals presented above and the owner of the seals discussed here are one and the same person. If so, we need to find chronological continuity between the titles and to assume that he was an eunuch on the seal representing him as anthypatos and patrikios.

799. Μιχαήλ πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 126. Found by P. Detev, a prehistorian, in Pliska in 1950. D.22.5-22.5 (22) 2.5-3.1 mm. W.10.54 g. Good imprint and good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 27; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 40.

No parallels known

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I. 27); in the quarters : ΤΩ-ΣΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. ÷ . | + ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΠΡΩΤ'ΣΠ . | Θ'ΣΓΕΝΙΚ' | ΛΟΓΟΘΕ'

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Μιχαήλ πρωτ(ο)σπ[α]θ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) γενι(κῷ)
λογοθέ(τη)

800. Μιχαήλ πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 113. Find-spot: Pliska or Preslav. D. 18-19 (?) 2 mm. W. 4.29 g. Thin, strong imprint, as it seems additionally clipped along the circumference, thus large portions from the dies remained outside the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 40a.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription:

.....ΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ Μ..... | Ρ'Α'ΣΠΑ... | ΠΙΤ8ΧΡ... | ΤΡ'ΣΓΕ... | ΟΓΟ....

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Μ[ιχαήλ] β'(πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίῳ)] (καὶ) ἐ]πὶ
τοῦ Χρ[υσο]τρ(ικλίνου) (καὶ) γε[ν(ικῷ) λ]ογο[θέτη]

801-811A. Παῦλος Μονομάχος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

801. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 578. Found in the course of excavations in G dwelling near the Southern Gate of the Inner City of Preslav in 1953. Poorly-preserved specimen with a portion chipped.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав № 127; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 41.

802. RHM-Shumen, no. 14703. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 14-26 mm. W. 8. 80 g. Half preserved from incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 43; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 475; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 203.

803. RHM-Shumen, no. 14823. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document in Feb 2003. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 26-30 (26?) 3 mm. W. 15.54 g. The imprint did not fit into the blank due to looseness of the boulloterion. The bulla itself is bent and cracked along the channel.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 44; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 476; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 204.

804. RHM-Shumen, no. 14834. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document in May-June 2003. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-24 (?) 2.5 mm. W. 5.28 g. Incomplete imprint due to the small size of the blank. The bulla is covered with white patina.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 45; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 477; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 205.

805. RHM-Shumen, no. 14861/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document in November 2003. Find-spot: Preslav. D.25-29 (25) 3 mm. W. 9.48 g. Incomplete imprint. The bulla is covered with white patina.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 46; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 478; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 206.

806. RHM-Shumen, no. 14861/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document in November 2003. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 14-22 (?) 2.5 mm. W. 3.92 g. Half preserved. Good but incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 47; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 479; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 207.

807. RHM-Shumen, no. 14904. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document on 15th January, 2004. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-28 (?) 3 mm. W. 8.26 g. Only parts of the dies printed. A question poses itself: how could such an imprint be sent from Constantinople?
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 47a; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 480; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 208.

808. RHM-Shumen, no. 15037/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document on 15th January, 2004. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 14-28 mm, W. 5.00 g. Half is preserved.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 209.

809. RHM-Shumen, no. 15235/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document on 17th April 2006. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-28 (24?) 3 mm. W. 8.36 g. Only parts of the dies printed.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 210.

810. RHM-Shumen, no. 15235/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document on 17th April, 2006. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 28-30 mm. W. 13.54 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation. Cracked and chipped.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 211.

811. RHM-Shumen, no. 15241. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. It was given to me to document on 17th April 2006. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 18-26 mm. W. 8.32 g. Half of an incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 212.

811A. RHM-Shumen. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 15-26 mm. W. 4.86 g. Fragment nearly half of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished.

The twelve specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels : Gorny, Mosch, no. 108, 3, April 2001, no.170.

Obv. Between two borders of dots, the invocation:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩΣΩΔΟΝΛΩ

In center, cruciform invocative monogram, containing the letters ΠΑΝΛΩ. In the quarters: ΠΑ-ΤΡ' || ΚΙ-Ω.

Rev. Between two borders of dots, the inscription from obv. continues:

ΡΑCΙΑΗΚΩΠΡΩΤΟCΠΑΘΑΡΙΩ

In center, cruciform monogram, containing the letters: To ΜΩΝΟΜΑΧΩ

In the quarters: ΚΑΙ - ΓΕ || ΝΙ - ΚΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Παύλῳ πατρ(ι)κίῳ βασιλικῷ πρωτοσπαθαρίῳ
καὶ γενικοῦ το Μονομάχ(ω)

The active correspondence of this Byzantine dignitary to unknown recipient in Preslav is interesting. He most probably wrote to a particular institution.

For more information on the person of Paul Monomachos, see **Jordanov, F. Names**, no.481, presenting the later period of his career in his capacity as imperial sakellarios.

812. Σέργιος μάγιστρος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (mid IX c.).

RHM-Shumen, no. 14793/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Outer City of Pliska, unearthed along with other Bulgarian and Byzantine seals from the second half of the IXth c. D.23-25 mm. W. 13.24 g. The blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies, as a result the imprint is incomplete and double struck, as it seems. Worn and effaced surface. We do the identification on the basis of the specimens already published.

Ed. **Jordanov, Fiscal**, no. 48; **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 213.

Parallels: Further three specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the Fogg A. M. Collection (see **Laurent, V.** Sceaux byzantins inedits.- BZ 33, 1933, S.333, T.IV.1), Zacos (see **Laurent, Corpus**, II, no. 307) and the Hermitage (M-12410 and M-12399). The last two were found in medieval Chersones. On them, see **Соколова, И. В.**, Византийские печати VI – первой половины IX вв. из Херсона.- BB, 52, 1991, 210-211, nos. 42-43.

Obv. Part of a cruciform invocative monogram. In the quarters: . Ω-СΩ ||

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.. ΕΡΓ. | ..ΓΙCΤ..|ΗΚ...|

[+Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῷ [δούλῳ Σ]εργ[ίῳ μα]γίστ[ρω (καὶ) γεν]ηκ[ῷ
λογοθέτῃ]

In his last publication, V. Laurent (see *Corpus*, II, no. 307) dated this seal to the mid-IXth c. and identified its owner with the father of Theodora, Emperor Theophylos' wife. We cannot be absolutely sure about that. The high title of this Sergios however cannot escape our notice. In the taktikon of Uspenskij all logothetai of this time hold the rank of patrikios. The high title of the owner of the seal emphasizes his close relationships with the Palace.

813. Σισίνιος πατρίκιος, καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (960-963)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.28141. Find-spot : Sozopol. D.24-26 (23?) 3 mm. Fairly well-made imprint and good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov, Fiscal**, no. 48a.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ CICI | ΝΙΩΠΑΤΡΗ | ΚΙΩ'S ΓΕΝΙΚΩ | ΛΟΓΟΘΩΕΤ'.

+Σισινίῳ πατρηκίῳ (καὶ) γενηκῷ λογοθέτ(ῃ)

The owner of the correspondence received in Sozopolis is a certain Σισίνιος πατρίκιος,

καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης. The dating of the seal affixed to this correspondence is generally to the second half of the Xth century, according to its iconography, text and external appearance.

A superb chalice donated by Σισίνιος πατρίκιος, καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης is preserved in the treasury of St. Mark's church in Venice. This chalice or rather the act of donation is dated to 962-963 (see **Marvin C. Ross**, The Chalice of Sisinius the Grand Logothete.- *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies*, 2,1959, 5-10)

The coincidence in time, title and position leads to the conclusion that the owner of the seal who sent his correspondence to Sozopolis and the donator of the chalice is one and the same individual. Who was he?

There are two main sources for his life: Theophanes Continuatus and Symeon Magistros.

In Theophanes Continuatus, we find the following information regarding the years of Romanos II's reign (959-963): " And the protospatharios Sisinius, sakellarios, a man of dignity and capable in state affairs, he appointed eparchos of the town, but soon after that proclaimed him patrikios and logothetes genikos and appointed the patrikios Theodore Daphnopates eparchos of the town in his place (see *Theoph. Cont.*, 470.3 ff.; *Продолжитель Феофана*, с.194).

We can read the following in Symeon Magistros: "and the protospatharios Sisinius, former sakellarios, he appointed eparchos of the city and soon after that patrikios and logothetes genikos" (see *Sym. Mag.*, 470.3-15; 757.13-15).

A seal is known having belonged to the same person, on which he is spatharios and notarios of the logothetes genikos (see **Laurent, Corpus**, II, no 392).

The chronological analysis of this information, taking into consideration the period, when other titulars were also at the head of the departments in question, define the following cursus honorum of Sisinius:

- 1) σπαθάριος καὶ νοτάριος τοῦ λογοθεσίου γενικοῦ (950-?);
- 2) πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β'σακελλάριος (?-959);
- 3) πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἑπαρχος (959-960);
- 4) πατρίκιος, καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (960-963);
- 5) μάγιστρος, καὶ ἑπαρχος (?-967).

Sisinius died as eparchos, during suppression of turmoils in the capital on 21st March, 967 (see **Skylitzes**, 275.91).

To whom in Sozopolis did the logothetes genikos Sisinius write during the period 960-963? His correspondence could have had both private and official nature. The latter seems more plausible. More reasonable question is to which administrative representative he wrote: to the Bulgarian or the Byzantine? It is more likely that he wrote to the Byzantine one, which raises the question of the power in Sozopolis: whether it was a Bulgarian or Byzantine territory. This question will remain open due to the lack of direct evidence. I dwell upon it in a special study of medieval Sozopolis. However, the indirect evidence as well as the seal of Sisinius, logothetes genikos, discovered in the town lead to the conclusion that during this period Sozopolis must have been within the boundaries of the Empire.

814-819. Φιλόθεος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (second half, IX c.)

814. RHM-Shumen, no. 14512. Purchased by Dimitar Yordanov from Shumen (Emil Kossev). Find-spot: uncertain. We suppose Pliska or Preslav. One of the owners is Emil Kosev. D. 26-27 (27.5 ?) 4 mm. W. Good imprint, but blank too small. Holed in its upper part, presumably worn as a medallion or suspended from the document.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no.49; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 214.

815. Private collection (A. Radushev from Sofia). He purchased it from a middleman who had bought it from Shumen. Presumably the same find-spot as the above. D. 25-26 (?) 3.5 mm. Fairly complete imprint, but less complete than the above. The invocation either did not print or was not preserved.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no.50.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Inscription between two borders of dots, beginning at 12 o'clock:: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

1: ο + ο | +ΦΙΛΟΘ | .ΩΡ'Α'CΠΑ | .ΣΓΕΝΗΚΩ | ΛΟΓΟΘΕΤ' | ο + ο
2: ο + ο | +ΦΙΛΟΘ | .ΩΡ'Α'CΠΑ | .ΣΓΕΝΗΚΩ | ΛΟΓΟΘΕΤ' | ο + ο
+ Φιλοθ[έ]ω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) γενικῶ λογοθέτη

816. RHM-Shumen, no. 14693. Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the village of Omarchevo. D. 25-28 mm. W. 10.50 g. The bulla is in a poor state of preservation, broken into two parts.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no.51; Jordanov, Zhekova, no.215.

817. RHM-Shumen, no. 14860. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot, according to the information of its former owner: Pliska. D. 28-29 (29 ?) 4 mm. W. 18.50 g. Incomplete imprint due to the smaller blank. There is also slipping of the obverse imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 52; Jordanov, Zhekova, no.216.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
Parallels: A lead seal of the same dignitary struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in DO 58. 106. 3711. See **Laurent, Corpus**, II, no. 309

818. RHM-Shumen, no. 14957/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot, according to the information of its former owner: Pliska. D. 22-23 mm. W. 10.78 g. Incomplete imprint due to the smaller blank.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no.217.

819. RHM-Shumen, no. 14957/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot, according to the information of its former owner: Pliska. D. 28-29 (29 ?) 4 mm. W. 11.26 g. Incomplete but superb imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no.218.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots, beginning at twelve o'clock: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙ.....*

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

816: | + Φ | ΩΡ'Α'CΠΑΘ. | ΓΕΝΙΚΩΛ. | ΓΟ.Ε . .
817: +* + | + ΦΙΛΟΘ . | ΩΡ'Α'CΠΑΘ. | ΓΕΝΙΚΩΛ. | ΓΟΘΕΤΙ | +* +
818: | | . R'Α'CΠΑ . . | ΓΕΝΙΚΩΛ. | ΓΟΘΕΤ' | . + .
819: . + . | . ΦΙΛΟΘΕ | . R'Α'CΠΑΘ'S | ΓΕΝΙΚΩΛΟ | | . + .
+ Φιλοθέω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [(καὶ)] γενικῶ λ[ο]γοθέτη

According to the publisher of the Dumbarton Oaks specimen, it dates from the mid-IXth c. and belonged to one of the partizans of the caesar Bardas before the enthronement of Basil I on 21st April 866 (*Symeon Logothetes*, 131.36).

820-827A. Φώτιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)

820. RHM-Shumen, no. 14809/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot, according to the information of the former owner: Pliska. D. 21-22 (20 ?) 3 mm. W. 7.42 g. Well-centered and almost complete imprint, but in a poor state of preservation; as a result, some letters are difficult to read.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 53. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 219.

821. RHM-Shumen, no. 14809/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot, according to the information of the former owner: Pliska. D. 20-20.5 (20 ?) 3 mm. W. 8.26 g. As with the above, the imprint was well-centered, but still some parts did not print due to the equal size of the blank and the dies. The surface of the bulla is very well preserved and covered with white patina.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no.54; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 220.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:
+ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΦΩΤΙ | ΩΡ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΓΕΝΙ | Κ'ΛΩΓΩ
+ Φωτίω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) γενικ(ῶ) λωγω[θ(έτη)]

822. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 411. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 15.5-17 (14 ?) 3 mm. Off-centered imprint. Surface covered with incrustations.
Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 41; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 55.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:
ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ | ΦΩΤΙ | .R'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΓΕΝΙΚ' | .ΟΓΟΘ. | +
+ Φωτί[ω] β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) γενικ(ῶ) [λ]ογοθ[έ(τη)] +

823. RHM-Yambol, no.II 4776. Find-spot: the land of the village of Gulabovo, Stara Zagora region. D. 19.5-19 (over 19) 2.5 mm. Off-centered and incomplete imprint. The surface is damaged at some places.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 56.

824. Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 407. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 20-21 (over 19) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller than the size of the dies.
Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № 45; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 57.

825. RHM-Shumen, no. 14903. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 20-20 (over 20) 3.1 mm. W. 8.80 g. Incomplete imprint since the blank was smaller than the size of the dies. The upper part of the cross and line 1 of the inscription remained out of the blank.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no.58; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 221.
The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion. The most characteristic feature is the floral ornament engraved in the field below and perhaps above the inscription.
Parallels: Laurent, Corpus, II, no. 318 A-B.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots :

3. + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ.
4. + ΚΕΡ. Ω
5. + ΚΕΡ. Ω

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

3. .. ΩΤΙΩ| .. ΠΑΘΑΡ. | .. ΓΕΝ ... | .. ΓΟΘ ..
4. | .. ΣΠΑΘΑΡ. | .. ΕΓΕΝΗ. | ΛΟΓΟΘΕ.
5. | Α'ΣΠΑΘ ... | ΚΕΓΕΝΗ. | ΛΟΓΟΘΕ.
[+Φ]ωτίω [(πρωτο)]σπαθαρ[ί(ω) κ]ἐ γενη[κῶ] λογοθέ[τ(η)]

826-827. They were struck with the same pair of dies and originate from the kommerkia of Develtos. The inscription proposed below draws on the three specimens.

Ed. Йорданов, *Деветл.*, № 42-44; *Jordanov*, *Fiscal*, nos. 59-61.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΦΩΤΙ| ΩΡ'Α'ΣΠΑ| Θ'ΣΓΕΝΙ| Κ'ΛΟΓΩΘ'
+ Φωτίω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) γενικ(ῶ) λογωθ(έτη)

The main question arising from the existence of these four groups of seals is whether they belonged to one and the same person.

The coincidence in the homonym, position, title, as well as their discovery in one place make this possibility quite plausible. Then another question logically follows. Were they used simultaneously or consecutively, i.e. is there a chronological difference between them?

A well-known fact is that the logothesion of the genikon was one of the basic departments, which sustained the life of the Empire, i.e. its income and expenditure; thus, it could be assumed that more than one boulloterion was needed at one time. It could also be assumed that the differences between the three groups are also chronological. Our observations, including other seals too, lead to the following conclusions: generally for the period IXth-Xth centuries, the seals with the invocative inscription placed between two borders of dots are the earlier; the seals containing the patriarchal cross with a fleuron are much later.

If we assume that there are chronological differences between the four groups of seals, the conclusion is that Photius was a titular for a longer period of time.

Father Laurent proposed dating in the IXth-Xth centuries, which seems to me acceptable. No logothetes genikos bearing this name is known from that period.

828. N., β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14771/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. D. 20-21 (?) 3 mm. W. 7.18 g. Incomplete imprint, made in the upper half of the blank. One or two lines recording the owner's name did not print. The bulla itself is punched in its lower part. It is impossible to identify it with the other imprints presented above, though it is very similar to them.

Ed. *Jordanov*, *Fiscal*, no. 62; *Jordanov*, *Zhekova*, no. 222.

Obv. Patriarchal cross. Between two borders of dots: + K. OVA'

Rev. Preserved from the inscription of four or five lines:

| | .. R'Α'ΣΠΑ | .. ΓΕΝΗΚΩ | ΟΓΟΘΕΤ'
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δ]ούλ(ω) (πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίω) (καὶ)] γενηκῶ
[λ]ογοθέτ(η)

829. N., ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15257. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: unknown (Pliska or Preslav). D. 13-21 (25) 2 mm. W. 3.04 g. Half of an incomplete imprint.
Ed. *Jordanov*, *Zhekova*, no. 223.

Obv. Part of a double crossed patriarchal cross with fleurons:

Rev. Preserved from the inscription of five lines:

. | ΑΝΘ . . . | . TP | . ΝΙ . . . | . Ω . . .
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ(ω)] ἀνθ[υπ(άτω) πα]τρ[ικ(ίω) (καὶ) γε]νι[κῶ]
λογ[ω]θ[έτ(η)]

830. N., πατρίκιος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (IX-X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15258. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: unknown (Pliska or Preslav). D. 14-25 (25) 2.5 mm. W. 4.76 g. Half of a good imprint.
Ed. *Jordanov*, *Zhekova*, no. 224.

Obv. Part of a rosette.

Rev. The letters preserved from four lines in the lower half of the seal.

. | | . Π | . ΑΤΡ . . | ΣΓΕΝΙ . . | ΛΟΓΩ . |
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ(ω)] [π]ατρ[ικ(ίω)] (καὶ) γενι[κῶ]
λογω[θ(έτη)]

831. N., ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ γενικὸς λογοθέτης (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18. Found in the course of excavations of Grazhdanski Complex site in the Selishte locality in 1987. D. 14-30 (29 ?) 2 mm. Fragment smaller than a half, broken into two parts.
Unpublished.

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription:

+ ΚΕΡΟ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

....N |ΘV | ΠI | .. ΓΕΝI | .. ΛΟΓ'
[+ Λέω]ν[τ(ι) ἀν]θυ[π(άτω) πατ]ρι[κ(ίω) (καὶ)] γενι[κῶ] λογ[οθέτ(η)]

The restoration and deciphering of the text is rather risky. We could assume with any certainty that it applies to a logothetes genikos.

b) ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν

A new department which first appeared in the sources in 1030 and whose importance steadily increased. We need to distinguish them from πρωτοσπαθάριοι, σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτοι and σπαθάριοι ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν, an additional element to their title in connection with the place they occupied in the Palace - οἰκειακῶν, a hall similar to that of the Chrysotriclinium (on them, see **Janin**, *Cple Byz.*, p. 115; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 299 and p. here).

The extant set of documents regarding its activity leads to the conclusion that it had a jurisdiction over the lands having belonged to the fisc and not to the crown, from which he collected taxes, duties and fines. Its origin should be connected with the activity of the sekretion of the genikon, where a special fund with the above incomes was created in ca. 972-973. It seems that this department gained influence and independence during the reign of Basil II (976-1025), who paid special attention to the expansion and management of the state lands.

Lit. **Dölger**, *Finanzverwaltung*, 43-45; **Guilland**, *Logothetes*, 95-100; **Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, 136-137.

The seals of dignitaries from this department presented below attest to their belonging to the college of this sekretion, some of them having had even additional main duties in other financial and administrative departments.

832. Ν., ἀσηκρήτης, β'νοτάριος τῶν οἰκειακῶν (XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 27. Find-spot: the town. D. 22-23 (over 23) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. The seal was larger than the blank, besides, it slipped in the boulloterion at the striking. Disregarding these deficiencies, the bulla is well-preserved.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Fragment of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her chest.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ..HKPH. | .R'NOTA. | TΩNO... | AKΩN

[+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ ἀσ]ηκρή[τη] β'νοτα[ρίῳ]) τῶν οἰκειακῶν

833. Κωνσταντῖνος βεστάρχης, ὑπατος, κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν (third quarter, XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 50. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 31-32 (28) 4 mm. W. 21.53 g. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Parallels: A bulla struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the collection of the Hermitage, see **Лихачев**, *Историческое значение*, с. 88 (бел. I had the opportunity to examine it in 1984).

Obv. The Virgin standing frontally, holding a medallion of Christ before her breast. Sigla : ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- + - | ΘΚΕΡΟΗ | ΘΕΙΚΩΝREC | ΤΑΡΧΗΝΠΙΑ | ΤΩΚΡΙΤΗΤ8 | ΡΗΛ8ΚΑΙΟΙ | ΚΕΙΑΚΩ | - * -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Κων(σταντίνῳ) βεστάρχη ὑπάτῳ κριτῇ τοῦ βήλου καὶ οἰκειακῷ(ν)

The dating of the bulla is generally to the third quarter of the XIth c. The iconographic subject and the titulature suggest a similarity with seal nos. 231-232.

c) οἰκιστικός

An office whose character is debated. The opinion that it was connected with the administration of the finances prevails. It was first mentioned during the reign of Leo VIth (886-912), when the properties completely exempted from taxaion by the emperor were registered in this office (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 313).

It was in the department of the logothesion of the genikon in the taktikon of Philotheos regarding the same period (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, Ph 113.32), and the titular of this office was σπαθάριος καὶ οἰκιστικός (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, Ph 155.5). It was also attested in the Escorial taktikon (975): ὁ οἰκιστικός (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, S 273.20).

In the XIth c., it was already a separate department with a numerous staff of protonotarioi, notarioi and chartoularioi. The chrysobullae with the donations of each monastery had to be registered here. The last mention of this department is in 1087.

Notarioi, logariasters, etc. were subordinated to the titular.

Lit. **Nesbitt**, **J. W.** The Office of the Oikistikos.- *DOP*, 29, 1975, 341-344; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, p. 188. Because of the closeness of the terms οἰκιστικός and οἶκος Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 313, assumed the possibility of this department to be charged with keeping a separate register of the crown's property, for which reason he included it in the chapter of imperial domains.

834. Νικόλαος β'οικιστικός (X c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 864. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 17.5-20 (15) 3.5 mm. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint. Parts of them did not print due to looseness of the dies or weak striking.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, IV, № 11.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of a bishop saint (St. Nicholas ?) blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..- | +NI | ΚΟΛΑ'Ρ' | ΙΚΕΑ | CTH

Νικόλα(ος) β'[ο]ικεαστη(κός)

The data are insufficient for any search in the narrative sources. However, the fact that Nicholas is presented on his seal only in his capacity as β'οικιστικός and without a title points to a dating in the period of the Escorial taktikon. For the earlier period, it has already been mentioned that the titular was a spatharios. For the later period, as noted above, a great number of protonotarioi, notarioi, chartoularioi, etc. served in this independent department. The opinion was expressed that the titular in the X-XIth centuries was πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ οἰκιστικοῦ (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 399).

d) ἀπογραφεύς

Financial officials sent from the central fiscal departments with the task to take an inventory of the size of the landed properties, to ascertain the changes that had occurred in them (made every indiction) and accordingly to assess the amount of duty which the owners of these properties must pay.

As a term, it became widespread after the second half of the XIIth c.; before that date the same functions were performed by ἀναγραφεύς, according to the sources.

Besides the officials in the central departments, there is also evidence of such attached to the respective administrative units.

Lit. Литаврин, България и Византия, 223-224; Kazhdan, OBD, p. 134 and the quoted literature.

835. Ν., ἀπογραφεύς (XII c.)

Place of preservation: unknown. Found in the course of archaeological excavations of the church in Veselchane locality near Kurdzhali in 1962. D. 33 mm. Bulla in a good state of preservation. The photo is rather indistinct and rendered the investigation difficult.

Ed. Манова, Е. Църквата в Кърджали.- Родопски сборник, 1, 1965, с. 195, обр. 25; I. D. in BZ, 59, 1966, 235-236; V. L. in BZ, 60, 1966, S. 238; Йорданов, Кърджали, 105-106.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin orans standing facing. No medallion visible. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || $\overline{\text{OV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | ΕΠΙΣΦΡ.ΙΖΟ | ΙΣΤΟΝΘΝΜΕΡΚ | ΟΡΗΑΠΟΓΡΑΦΕΥ | ΣΙΚΑΙΓΡΑΦΑΣ | ΠΡΑΚΤΕΑ

+ Ἐπισφρ[αγ]ίζοις τοῦ Θεοῦ Μ(η)τερ Κόρη ἀπογραφεύς(ο)ι καὶ γραφὰς κ(αὶ) πρακτέα

In the bibliographical reference in BZ, 59, 1966, 235-236 I. D. proposed the following reading:

+ Ἐπισφραγίζοις τοῦ κουμμερκ(ι)αρίου ἀπογραφε(έως) Εὐθυμίου τὰς γραφὰς κ(αὶ) πρακτέα

The reading of V. L. in BZ, 60, 1966, S. 238 seems more logical and is accepted in the present publication.

The difficulties in the commentary of the seal are due to both the unusual text, which makes it to a great extent anonymous, and to the absence of similar cases.

In the cases familiar to me concerning the office of ἀπογραφεύς, it is usually associated with a particular administrative unit, in which the given official had to take the census and audit and who had his homonym obligatorily inscribed. In our case, we have a body of census-takers ἀπογραφεύς. We cannot be absolutely sure of the department they represented: either that of the central administration in the capital or some of its branches in the province. We cannot offer a satisfactory answer to whom in this church area this fiscal body wrote, either. If we accept the assumptions made by the excavators that a bishop resided there, the receipt of a correspondence from this fiscal body of census-takers is quite normal.

Still, judging by the style of engraving of the dies, by the overall appearance of the bulla, its shape and size, it could be assumed that it was made in the capital and that generally this department was located there.

e) κόμης τῆς λαμίας

An office connected with the exploitation and control over the mines on the part of the state. The titular was in the department of the logothetes of the genikon (see Oikonomides, Listes, P 113.34; Laurent, Corpus, II, p. 191).

836. Θεοφύλακτος β'στράτωρ καὶ κόμης τῆς λαμίας (IX-X c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 20-20 mm. Well-centered and well-executed imprint; nevertheless, the first letters of almost every line did not print.

Ed. Banescu, Inedite, no 5; Laurent, Corpus, II, no. 402.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bird (a duck or a pelican) walking l., holding a serpentine in its beak.

Circular inscription between two borders of dots: +ΚΕΡΟΗ...CΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΕΩΦ | ΛΑΚΤ'Ρ' | ΤΡΑΤΟΡ' | ΚΟΜ'Τ. | ΛΑΜΙΑ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοή[θη τῷ] σῷ δούλῳ Θεοφ[υ]λάκτ(ω) β'[σ]τράτορ(ι) [(καὶ)] κόμ(ι)τι τ[ῆς] λαμίας(ς)

The only correction I will try to make in the cited publications concerns the dating. They propose a Xth-century dating, without specifying it as early, mid or late. The manner in which the invocation was inscribed, the title β'στράτωρ and generally the office κόμης τῆς λαμίας, presented only in the taktikon of Philotheos (899), point to a dating to the IXth-Xth centuries.

Why a seal of a Byzantine κόμης τῆς λαμίας should be discovered in the region of the Lower Danube is a question of a different matter. Perhaps its presence there was connected with some interstate interests, or, as was already ascertained, the presence of the IXth-Xth-century Byzantine seals in Dristra was connected with the see of the Bulgarian patriarch located there.

f) πραγματευτής

I could not find satisfactory description of this position in the narrative sources. According to the publication commentary of similar seals, a tradesman, a trade agent or a bkoker are covered by this term. According to the same authors, he could be a private individual with his staff, but also a representative of the state with subordinate officials responsible for the trade of particular goods and raw materials (see Schlumberger, Sig., 566-567; Laurent, Vatican, 144-145).

According to others, these were provincial traders who united themselves in amalgamation κοινότης πραγματείας precisely at this period and whose members were supported in trade operations around the world (see The Economic History of Byzantium, vol. 2, p. 708.).

The surviving seals of two Byzantine traders found in the Bulgarian capital Great Preslav raise a number of questions. What kind of traders were they: private individuals or representatives of the Empire? Who were their addressees in Preslav? Who were their

partners here: state officials or private individuals? What goods did they import and export? All these questions will remain open. Hopefully the future archaeological excavations will furnish us with sufficient information to fill this gap.

837. Ἀνδρέας πραγματευτής (X c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain (Preslav). D. 26-26 mm
Unpublished.
No parallels known

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.19). In the quarters, a dotted cross.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

⋈ | ΑΝΔΡΕΑ | ΠΡΑΜΑΤ' | ΔΣΛΟ.ΡΙ | ΤΟΥ | ⋈
 + Ἀνδρέας πρα(γ)ματ(ευτή)ς δούλο(ς) Χριστοῦ

838. Πλωτινίος πραγματευτής (IX-X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15459. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 19-19 (16) 3 mm. W. 7. 18 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.

Obv. Obliterated image of a patriarchal cross(?) Between two borders of dots circular inscription: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' | ΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ΠΛΩ | ΤΙΝΙΩΠΡ | ΑΓΜΑΤ' | -.-
 + Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Πλωτινίῳ πραγματ(ευτῇ)

The name Plotinius is very uncommon and is not attested on other seals. I have not found it in other written sources.

The dating of the seal, according to its iconography, paleography and mostly the invocation inscribed between a border of dots, is to the last quarter of the IXth c.

3. Logothetes of the Dromos

One of the four logothetai at the head of the central departments of the Empire. Its name derives from the main duty of the office he headed – the maintenance of the road and communication systems. This office was first attested in the written sources in 759/760 and it was preserved until the end of the XIVth c.

The responsibilities of the logothetes of the dromos can be distinguished in the following three basic trends reflecting important activities of the life of the Empire:

1) Maintenance of the roads and the communications along them: a dense road system covered the Empire to the east and west having both ordinary and fast roads.

2) He was informed by his numerous officials about the conditions of the roads and the accompanying situation. He was perfectly informed of the situation in the Empire and took measures for restoring order in the respective regions? Thus he acted as a foreign minister.

3) His main duty, for which he was never duplicated in none of the other offices, was in connection with the foreign embassies and envoys. He would meet them along with his assistants as far as the borderline, would escort them to the Palace, would negotiate in advance on the questions to be discussed, would usher the envoys into the presence of the emperor and inform him on the purpose of the embassy, would ask the protocol questions and receive answers for them. These functions and his actual power made him an indispensable advisor of the emperor, but he never had the authority of a prime minister.

These conventional duties of the logothetes of the dromos are corroborated in the narrative sources from the IXth through the XIth centuries. In the XIIth c. however, and more precisely after the death of Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118), the tendency has been ascertained (originating perhaps from the earlier period of the reign of this emperor) when the fiscal duties of the logothetes of the dromos prevailed and he became an actual chancellor of the emperor, while the hitherto titular, the protoasekretis, left the chancellery after 1106 and appeared in the role of a chairman of the Supreme court in Constantinople (**Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, p. 135, n. 35).

The logothetes of the dromos fulfilled his duties with the help of a staff of numerous assistants, the most important of which are the following:

a) πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου – in the real sense of the word, assistant of the logothetes who substituted for him when he was absent. He headed the office of the notarioi at his department, through which he furthered the decrees of the Imperial council concerning the activity of the department.

b) χαρτουλάριος τοῦ δρόμου in charge of the financial issues of the department concerning the postal services, maintenance of roads, local provision of different kinds of statute labour and observance of their correctness, etc. There seems to be only one chartoularios of the dromos from the early Xth c., which is corroborated by the Escorial taktikon (975), but on seals they are most often two: of the East and West.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, 91-93; **Brehier**, *Institutions*, 300-303; **Guilland**, *Logothete*, 31-70; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 311-312; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, 195-196, 215, 220. **Miller**, *Logothete*, 440-442.

839. Θεόκτιστος πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (829-842)

Archaeological Center, Devlet, no.272. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos from the first period of its activity. D. 31-33 (24) 4 mm, 22.00 g. Superb engraving of the dies and excellent imprint. The bulla is in a superb state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Девлет*, № VII.12.

Parallels: Another specimen, which according to the illustration seems to have been struck with the same pair of dies as our specimen, is preserved in the Zacos Collection (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 2497). Its imprint was however not so successful or the bulla itself was worn so that it lacks the distinctness and quality of our specimen.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕΟ | ΚΤΙCΤΩ | ΠΑΤΡΙΚ'Σ | ΛΟΓΟΘ'ΤΟΥ | ΔΡΟΜ'
 + Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Θεοκτίστῳ πατρικ(ίῳ) (καὶ) λογοθ(έτου) τοῦ δρόμ(ου)

The owner of the seal affixed to the correspondence to the kommerkia of Develtos is Θεόκτιστος πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου.

Its dating, according to its paleography, appearance and text (the correlation between title and position) and mostly the fact that it was discovered in a closed complex dated 820s-840s, is to the period 820s-840s.

A dignitary by the same name, title and position is reported in the years of the reign of Theophilos (829-842).

His origin is unknown. According to some chroniclers, he was a eunuch, others rule this out. He appeared on the political stage in connection with the enthronement of the Amorion dynasty. Theoktistos, then in his capacity as a cheif (dometikos) of one of the main corps of the tagmata in the capital, that of the excubitoi, rendered a valuable assistance to Michael II (820-829) in taking possession of the throne. This help was many times compensated after the enthronement of Michael II. Theoktistos was introduced into the rank of the patrikioi and appointed head of the imperial chancellery, i.e. protoasekretis. He retained his positions under Theophilos (829-842) as well, when he was appointed logothetes of the dromos and along with that occupied the quite influential position of ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου (for the origin and significance, see **Dölger**, *Diplomatik*, 50-52). His influence particularly increased after the death of Theophilos (January 20th 842), when he was appointed regent of the young Emperor Michael III (843-867) along with his mother Empress Theodora. The exact date until which he was logothetes of the dromos is unknown, since the chronicles always report his two positions: ὁ πατρίκιος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου Θεόκτιστος (see *Ios. Gen.*, 83.17-18), but he was ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου until his death in 856. It could be assumed that after Theophilos' death, he retired from active administrative work (as logothetes of the dromos) and in his capacity as a regent retained the influential and honorific position of ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλίου, through which he also controlled the imperial decrees (the information on his life and activities has been abbreviated from: **Малишевский**, **И.** Логофет Феоктист.- *Труды киевск. дух. академии*, 2, 1887, 296-297; **Dvornik**, **F.** *Les legendes de Constantin*, 35-38; **Dölger**, *Diplomatik*, 51-52).

Along with that, Theoktistos was an outstanding statesman, an initiator and master mind for the restoration of the icon worship. He was also the initiator for the creation of the Constantinopolitan university. He was a patron of many talented young scholars among which the creator of the Slavic script Constantine Cyril the Philosopher (see **Dvornik**, **F.** *La carrière universitaire de Constantin le Philosophe*.-*BSI.*, 3, 1931, 59-67; **Guilland**, *Les logothetes*, 48-50).

In our case, it is of particular importance to determine when and on what occasion the correspondence of Theoktistos was received in the kommerkia of Develtos.

If we accept that it was received in Develtos in connection with his immediate duties of a logothetes of the dromos, we should look for a particular moment in the Bulgarian-Byzantine relations when a Bulgarian embassy arrived in Constantinople for the settlement of certain problematic areas in the relations between the two states. Perhaps instructions for the meeting and escort of the Bulgarian envoys were sent to the local representative of the Byzantine administration or to a special proxy of the logothetes.

In the period 829-842, when Theoktistos was a logothetes of the dromos, similar problems arose in 837 and 838, in connection with the Bulgarian expansion in Thrace, the Aegean coast, the Rhodopes and Macedonia (for a survey of the events, see **Божилев**, **Гюзелев**, *История*, 159-160). Clearly, these conflicts had to be settled by means of negotiations and embassies and, as already pointed out, the leading role in them on the part of the Empire was played by the logothetes of the dromos.

840-842. Θεωμᾶς πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)

840. RHM-Shumen, no. 14679. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D.25-25 (24) 2 mm. W. 7.20 g. Well-centered and well-executed imprint. Holed in the lower end and suspended upside down.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Девелт [Adednda], no. 6; **Йорданов**, Логотети, № 2; **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 225.

841. RHM-Shumen, no. 14680. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D.21-22 (?) 2 mm. W. 7.50 g. Incomplete specimen in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Девелт [Adednda], no. 7; **Йорданов**, Логотети, № 3; **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 226.

842. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Presumably the same find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 22-20 (20) 2 mm, W. 6,50 g. Incomplete specimen in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Девелт, Adednda, no. 7a.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘ ΕΙΤΩΣΩΔΟΥΛ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΘΩΜΑ | ΑΤΡΙΚ'ΠΡ | ΕΠΟCΙΤΡ'Α'C | ΠΑΘ'ΣΛΟΓΟ | ΘΕΤΤΟΝΔ | ΡΟΜΟΝ

+ Θεωμᾶ πατρικ(ίω) πρεποσίτω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) λογοθέτ(ου) τοῦ δρόμου

The owner of the seal Thomas held the titles patrikios, praispositos and imperial protospatharios. Judging by the title praispositos, he must have been a eunuch.

A titular by the same name and the title patrikios is known in the narrative sources.

Theophanes Continuatus on the early years of the reign of Michael III (843-867) and in connection with the restoration of the icon worship reports that the regent empress Theodora called to herself the droungarios tes viglas, the patrikios Constantine. The author of the Continuatus adds that he was the father of the future logothetes of the dromos, the patrikios Thomas (see *Theoph. Contin.*, p. 150, **Любарский**, с.67).

The name of the patrikios Constantine was reported again during the reign of the same Michael III, on the occasion of the feast in which the Bulgarian envoys took part and on which the future emperor Basil I appeared. The author of the Continuatus adds again "father of our logothetes of the dromos, the wise philosopher, and absolutely uncorrupted patrikios Thomas" (see *Theoph. Contin.*, p. 229.10-12 **Любарский**, с.98.)

The next information concerns the year 913 regarding the rebellion of Constantine Doukas. Theophanes Continuatus reports that a certain Nicholas, once a tax-collector in Haldia, who denied piety, arrived in Syria and took up astronomy or more precisely astrology, sent the logothetes Thomas a roll of black-coloured material, which, after being washed with water by the Arabian interpreter Manuel, revealed the prophesy that the rebellious Doukai would meet their doom (see *Theoph. Contin.*, p. 383; **Любарский**, с. 160).

The same informaton is corroborated by John Skylitzes (see *Skylitzes*, 124,19-20; 199,75-85).

One of the letters of John Daphnopates is addressed to Θ]ωμ(ᾶ) πατρικίω καὶ λογοθέτῃ τοῦ δρόμου. Indeed, the first letter from the name of the addressee is missing, and could be restored as [P]ωμ(ανῶ), but it is more likely to apply to Thomas (see *Theodore*

Daphnopates, no. 21). The author accepted that it was Thomas, the son of the patrikios Constantine, who was logothets of the dromos in 907. He dated the letter to 925, thus arising the question whether Thomas was still logothetes at that juncture or the former logothetes of the dromos is concerned. The latter seems more likely.

It has been accepted that patrikios Thomas was logothetes of the dromos between 907 and 913 (see **Miller**, *Logothetes*, p.452; **Guilland**, *Les logothetes*, 53-54).

A question poses itself: is it possible to identify the owner of the present seals with Thomas from the narrative sources? The dating of the seal is generally in the late IXth and the early Xth centuries, hence it is quite possible that the owner of the Develtos seals is identical with Thomas from the narrative sources. However, the most commonplace coincidence of individuals having lived generally at the same time, bearing the same names and occupying the same positions should not be ruled out either.

The discovery in the kommerkia of Develtos of three bullae having belonged to Thomas should be considered in the context of the Bulgarian-Byzantine relations and not as a mere inter-departmental exchange of correspondence. The time when Thomas was logothetes of the dromos and specifically the year 913 was a period of active Bulgarian-Byzantine relations leading to the meeting in Blachernae and the signing of the peace treaty between the two states. These negotiations and meetings were organized and planned with the indispensable role of the logothetes of the dromos.

843. Λέων μάγιστρος, ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)

Private collection (St. Bilik from Soifia). Find-spot: the land of the village of Kurtzhabene, Pleven region (?). D. 23-25 (23) 2.5 mm. W. 8.689 g. Well-centered, but nevertheless incomplete imprint. The last line of the text was out of the blank.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base up to the first arm.

Circular inscription along a border of dots : + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ ΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΑ΄

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝ| Τ'ΜΑΓΙCΤΡ' | ΑΝΘΥΠΑΤ'Π | ΑΤΡΙΚ'ΣΑΟ | Γ'Τ8ΔΡΟ' | οοο

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Λέοντ(ι) μαγίστρ(ω) ἀνθυπατ(ω) πατρικ(ίω)
(καὶ) λογ(οθέτου) τοῦ δρό(μου)

The data are insufficient for any identification, but still certain assumptions could be made.

A seal of Λέων μάγιστρος, ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου is published in Laurent's *Corpus of the Central Administration* (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 429). It is really different from ours both in iconographic subject and titulature.

In *De adm. imp.*, 156-157.81-84, there is mention of an individual by the same name, title and position:

"... after the time that this lord Leo had reigned, the then military governor at Dyrrachium, the protospatharius Leo Rhabduchus, who was afterwards honoured with the rank of magister and office of foreign minister, arrived in Paganian..." It concerns the preparations which the Byzantines made before the battle in 917 trying to win the Magars and Serbs of Peter, son of Goinikos (see **Златарски**, *История*, I.2, с. 376; **Божилев**, *Гюзелев*, *История*, с. 256).

Hence, Leo Rhabduchus was honoured with the rank of magistros and logothetes of the dromos after 917 and most probably during the reign of Romanos I Lakapenos (920-944) (on his person, see *De Adm. Imp., Commentary*, p. 134; **Guilland**, *Logothetes*, p. 54, no 19).

In any case, it is curious for us to explain the presence of his bulla on the land of the village of Kurtzhabene, Pleven region, provided we can rely on the information of the finders. To deny the find-spot of the seal is the easiest thing to do. But in the light of the contacts of Leo Rhabduchus with Magars and Serbs, it is quite possible that he sent his correspondence to a partner who sojourned or lived permanently in this region.

844-849. Θεόκτιστος πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)

844. RHM-Shumen, no. 14725. Purchased by Valentin Savov from Shumen. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 27-32 (27) 3 mm. W. 16.90 g. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint. Some letters did not print.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Логотети*, № 6; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 227.

845. RHM-Shumen, no. 14813/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23-25 (25 ?) 2 mm. W. 6.52 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Holed in center and used as a weight for a spindle.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Логотети*, № 7; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 228.

846. RHM-Shumen, no. 14813/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 11.5-22 (?) 3 mm. W. 3.18 g. Half of once incomplete imprint, besides, in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Логотети*, № 8; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 229.

847. RHM-Shumen, no. 15259/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 16-28 (?) 2 mm. W. 3.62 g. Half of once incomplete imprint, besides, in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 230.

848. RHM-Shumen, no. 15259/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 14-28 (?) 3 mm. W. 6.84 g. Half of once incomplete imprint, besides, in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 231

849. RHM-Shumen, no. 15477/5. Find-spot: Preslav. Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07. 07) D. 14-19 (?) 2 mm. W. 3.40 g. Fragment of an imprint made on a small or subsequently trimmed blank.

Unpublished.

The six specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

844. ΘΕΟΤΟ | . . R'ΤΩCΩ | .ΟVΛΩ

845. ΘΕ . . . | ΚΕR | . . VΛ .

846.+ΘΕ . . . | . . R |

847. ΘΕΟΤ . | ΚΕR |

848. | . . . ΤΩCΩ | .ΟVΛΩ

849.+ΘΕΟ . . | ΚΕR |

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

844. ΘΕΟΚ | . ΙCΤΩΠ | . ΠΙΚΗΩ . . | . ΓΟΘ'ΤΟV | . ΡΟΜ.

845. ΘΕΟ . | . . . ΤΩΠ | . Ρ . . ΗΩS | . ΟΓΟ . ' ΤΟ . | ΔΡ . . .

846. | . . . ΤΩ . . | . . . ΚΗΩ . . | ' . . . |

847. . . . OK | ΩΠΑ | SA | T . . . |
 848. +ΘΕ . . . | T ICT . . . | TPIK . . . | ΟΓΟΘ' . . . | Δ POM.
 849. . . ΕΟΚ | . . . ΤΩΠΑ | ΩSA | |

+ Θεοτόκε β(οήθη) τῷ σῶ [δ]ούλῳ Θεοκτίστῳ πατρικίῳ (καὶ) λογοθ(έτη) τοῦ δρόμ[ου]

Clearly, this seal is different form that of the above titular who bears the same title. Its dating is generally to the Xth c.

Zacos collection contains three bullae of a logothetes of the dromos by the same name:

- a) πατρίκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (**Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 324);
- b) ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (**Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 322);
- c) μάγιστρος, ἀνθύπατος, , πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (**Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 323)

A seal of Theoktistos ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου is preserved in a private collection (presumably of L. Zarnitz) (see **Seibt-Zarnitz**, no. 2.1.6.)

The publishers of the above specimens associate this logothetes of the dromos with the recipient of a letter from an unknown scholar dated 944. Its exact lemma says: Θεοκτίστῳ λογοθέτῃ καὶ πατρικίῳ ἐπιστολὴ ἀπολογητική(see **Browning**, R. The Correspondence of a Tenth-Century Byzantine Scholar.- *Byzantion*, 24, 1954, p. 421, epistle no. 95; **Markopoulos**, A. L'epistolaire du "professeur anonyme" de Londres. Contribution prosopographique.- *Αφιέρωμα στὼν Ν. Σβορώνος*. Rethymnon, 1986, 142; **Steiner**,. A. Untersuchungen zu einem anonymen byzantinischen Briefcorpus des 10 Jahrhunderts.- *Europäische Hochschulschriften*, Reihe, XV, Bd.37. Frankfurt am Main 1987, 161).

If we accept that by logothetes is meant logothetes of the dromos, the coincidence with our seal is still more complete, since there is only one title, that of patrikios, inscribed on it.

If we intergrate our seal with those form the Zacos collection, four differnt groups of seals of this titular are distinguished. Perhaps the seal of a protospatharios and protonotarios of the dromos belonged to the same Theoktistos at an earlier stage of his career (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 466).

The four groups of seals of the logothetes of the dromos Theoktistos attest either to a great activity of his office or, which seem more probable, to its longer existence in time.

It is of importance to us that Theoktistos, patrikios and logothetes of the dromos, wrote to Preslav at least six times.

850. Λέων κουροπαλάτης καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (963-969)

Private collection of a collector who preferred to stay anonymous. Find-spot: uncertain, but many of the seals of this collector originate from Preslav. D. 28-30 mm. Well-centered, but nevertheless incomplete imprint.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters: ΤΩ-ΘΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝ | ΤΙΚ8ΡΟ. | . ΛΑΤΙ8ΑΟ | .ΟΘΕΤ'Τ8 | ΔΡΟΜ8

+Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Λέοντι κουρο[πα]λάτι (καὶ) λο[γ]οθέτ(ης) τοῦ δρόμου

The title kouropalates connected with the office of the logothetes of the dromos and the dating of the seal generally to the second half of the Xth c. point to an identification with Leo Phokas, brother of Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969). The family Phokas were outstanding military commanders. Leo Phokas was not an exception. He was a brilliant warrior and military commander. He occupied the highest key positions for commanders.

Here in brief is his cursus honorum (see **Guilland**, *Domeestique*, 34-35; **Cheyne**, *Phokas*, 301-306).

1. β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Καππαδοκίας (944/45)
2. πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν Ἀνατολικῶν (955)
3. πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Δύσεος(955 - ?)
4. μάγιστρος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῶν Ἀνατολικῶν(959-?)
5. μάγιστρος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεος (?-959)
6. κουροπαλάτης καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (963-969)

He is kouropalates and logothetes of the dromos on the present seal. He was honored with the title kouropalates after his brother's enthronement. Certain confusion among investogators is observed, since, according to Leo the Deacon, "And he appointed his brother Leo as kouropalates and magister" (see *Leo the Deacon*, p. 99.. It is clear from our seal that Leo Phokas held only the high rank of kouropalates. He had been granted the title magistros as early as under Romanos II (959-963). During the reign of his brother, according to his contemporaries, he switched from military to civil service and his name was associated with a number of speculations and abuses, which finally led to discontent with the Phokas family and to thier overthrow.

However, there is no particular information on his exact civil office. The information of Liutprand is also lacking in concreteness regarding the fact that at the banquet on St. Peter's day in 968 he was neglected in favor of the Bulgarian envoy, "but when indignant I wanted to leave, the emperor's brother, the kouropalates Leo, and the protoasekretis Symeon [Leo coropalates, imperatoris frater, et proto a secretis Symeon] ran after me..." and told him that the Bulgarian envoy was a patrikios and it was fair enough to be fovoured to a bishop, who was Frankish at that, see *ЛИБИ*, II, c.326. But the fact that he reacted to the demonstration of the foreign ambassador has given grounds to many investigators to accept that he was a logothetes of the dromos. Due to the mentioned obscuriy, Miller has not included Leo Phokas in the list of the logothetai of the dromos (see **Miller**, *Logothetes*, p. 466).

The office of Leo Phokas is clearly inscribed on our seal – logothetes of the dromos - and its data serves to supplement the narrative sources.

There is one more seal available which testifies that Leo Phokas was kouropalates and logothetes of the dromos.

A seal of a certain Niketas ostiarios and katepano of the domain of Leo kouropalates and logothetes of the dromos is preserved in Zacos collection (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 1081).

Leo Phokas was logothetes of the dromos until his brother's death in 969. After the enthronement of John I Tzimiskes, he was banished to Lesbos in Mathyimna. He particiapted in two unsuccessful attempts for restoring of his power.

The other important element about the present seal is the fact that it was discovered in Bulgaria. Unfortunately, we know nothing of its find-spot, but it is very likely that it was

discovered in Preslav. In any case, its discovery in the Bulgarian lands should be discussed in the context of the Bulgarian-Byzantine relations in the period 963-969, which were very dynamic. It is no matter of chance that the information of Liutprand is precisely in the context of the Bulgarian-Byzantine relations.

851-854. Συμεὼν μάγιστρος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (70s of the X c.)

The two specimens were struck in different boulloteria or pairs of dies.

851. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17218. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D.26-27 (24) 2.5 mm. W. 9.15 g. Once a high quality imprint; subsequently the bulla was cut along the circumference and a piece was broken at the channel opening.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 128; Йорданов, Логотети, № 10.
Parallels: DO. 58. 106 1592, see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 431a.

852. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22183. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D.19-24 (?) 2 mm. Unsuccessful imprint. Bent. Its identification is on the basis of parallel specimens already published.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 129; Йорданов, Логотети, № 11.
Parallels: DO. 58. 106. 3455, see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 431b

Obv. Two crosses (of St. Andrew and Greek) intersecting and dividing the field into eight equal parts. Pearls engraved on thier arms forming imaginary belts, which, according to some investigators, resemble the signs of the zodiac – one third of the zodiac. In the eight equal parts of the field, the invocation: K.-RO-HΘ-ΕΙ-ΤΩ-Ω-Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1. - ∴ - |+ CVME | ΩΝΜΑΓΙ | CΤΡΟΣΛΟ | ΓΟΘΕΤ'Τ8 | ΔΡΟΜ8 | - ∴ -
2. - ∴ - | . . VME | ΓΙ . . | . . S | .Θ | ΔΡ . . . | - ∴ -
+Κ(ύρι)[ε] βοήθει τῷ [σ]ῷ δούλῳ Συμεὼν μαγίστρο (καὶ) λογοθέτ(ου) τοῦ δρόμου

To supplement the information of their previous publication, I wish to add that the correspondence of Symeon, magistros and logothetes of the dromos, might have been received in Preslav before it was captured by the Byzantines in 971. As it is known, Byzantine diplomacy then used many-combinative moves to isolate or win the Bulgarians, depending on the political situation.

The available sources do not rule out the possiblity of Symeon to have been a logothetes of the dromos before 971.

853. RHM-Shumen, no. 14710. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. D. 29-30 (22) 3 mm. W.11.00 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Логотети, № 11a; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 232.

854. RHM-Shumen, no. 14513. Purchased by Dimitar Yordanov from Shumen. D. 29-30 (23) 3 mm. W. 16.84 g.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 233.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-Ε-Ο || Δ-Ω-ΡΟ-С

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ∴ - | CVME | ONMAΓI | CΤΡΟΣΛΟ | ΓΟΘΕΤ8 | ΔΡΟΝ8 | - ∴ -

+Συμεὼν μαγίστρο (καὶ) λογοθέ(του) τοῦ δρόμου

What is common between these seals is that they are modern counterfeits. As a whole the imprint is weak, certain letters were deliberately changed, while others were mistaken (for example, ΔΡΟΝ8 instead of ΔΡΟΜ8) something which a capital engraver would not allow on the seal of the logothetes of the dromos.

855. Μιχαήλ Ἀριστηνός λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (late XI c.)

RHM-Pernik, no. 938. Found in the course of excavations of the medieval fortress in square V/88, at a depth of 0.50 m on 25th June 1969. D. 21-21 (20) 3 mm. Well-centered imprint and well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Юркова, Перник, II, 115-17, табл. II.2; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.57.
Parallels: Two other specimens, struck with the same pair of dies, are stored in the Cabinet de medailles in Paris (no. 43) and the Numismatic Museum in Vienna (no. 667). On them, see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 439; **Wassiliou**, *Seibt*, no. 56.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+TON. | ΠΙCΤΗΝΟΝ | ΝΥΝΛΟΓΟΘΕ | ΤΗΝΔΡΟ | ΜΟΥ
+Τὸν [Ἀ]ριστηνὸν νῦν λογοθέτην δρόμου

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | ΤΟΝΜΙ | ΧΑΗΛΔΕ | ΚΝΥCΙCΦΡΑ | ΓΙΔΟCΤΥ | ΠΟC
+Τὸν Μιχαήλ δείκνυσι σφραγίδος τύπος

856-857. Παῦλος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ δρόμου (X c.)

856. RHM-Shumen, no. 15250. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 27-27 (25) 3 mm. W. 9.92 g. Incomplete imprint. Damaged, cracked and hit during unearthing. The most typical however is that on the obv. an imprint of a textile is visible, thus preventing the letters from printing, i.e. the material was in the boulloterion.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 234

857. RHM-Shumen, no. 14851. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 27-29 (?) 3 mm. W. 10.28 g. Incomplete imprint. Only some letters were preserved. The restoration is on the basis of the above specimen.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 235
Parallels: **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II. no. 430.

Obv. Letters from the first two or three lines are visible.

ΘΕ . . | . Κ'Ρ . . |
. . . . | ΟΚ'Ρ . . | ΗΘΗΤ . |

Rev. Preserved from the inscription of five lines:

. . . . | . ΝΘ.ΠΑΤ | . ΑΤΡΙΚ'ΣΑ | .ΟΘΕΤΙΤ | . . ΡΟΜ8
. . . . | | ΠΑΤΡΙΚ'ΣΑ | . . ΘΕΤΙΤ |
+ Θε[ο]τ[ό]κ(ε) β[ο]ήθη τῷ σ[τ]ῷ δούλῳ Παύλῳ ἀνθ[υ]πάτ(ω) πατρικ(ίω) (καὶ) λ(ο)[γ]οθέτι τ(οῦ) [δ]ρόμου

The presented parallel is not a whole specimen either. The reading of the name of this logothetes of the dromos is not certain. According to Laurent it is dated to the Xth c. which

corresponds to the medium in which it was found.

b) πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου:

858. Παντολέον ὑπατος καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (20s of the IX c.)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 216. Found in the course of excavations in the kommerkion of Develtos from the first period of its activity. D. 25-27 (over 27) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller than the dies.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девет*, № VII.13.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the Thierry Collection, see *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 443.

Obv. Part of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters: .Ω-.Ω || Δ8- ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ANT. | . ΕONTIVΠ | .Α'NOT'T. | ΔΡΟΜ'

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθη [τ]ῷ σ[ῶ] δούλῳ [Π]αντ[ολ]έοντι ὑπ(άτῳ) [(καὶ)]
(πρωτο)νοτ(αρίῳ) τ[οῦ] δρόμ(ου)

The owner of the seal affixed to his correspondence is Pantoleon, hypatos and protonotarios of the dromos. His duties of an assistant and sometimes proxy of the logothetes of the dromos have already been discussed above.

What we need to determine is when, on what occasion and to whom he sent his correspondence.

The dating of the seal, according to the publisher of the cited parallel specimen, is generally to the first half of the IXth c. The combination of the title hypatos and the position protonotarios of the dromos point to a more precise dating. The title hypatos, which was once honorific and high-ranking, lost its value in the IXth c., and in 840s it was of a very low rank. It is only mentioned in the taktikon of Uspenskij. Two decades earlier it was held by the kommerkiarios of Adrianoupolis (see no. 1106), thus it could be held by a protonotarios of the dromos from that period or earlier.

Two letters of Theodore Stoudites dated 821 and between 824 and 826 were addressed to a certain Pantoleon, logothetes (*Theodore Studitae, Epistulae*, ed. G. Fatouros. *Corpus Fontum*, H.B., vol. XXXI.1, Berolini et Novi Eboraci, MCMXCII, nos. 425;523PG, XCIX, coll. 1321 et 1577). It was not specified what kind of logothetes this Pantoleon was (he could have been logothetes of the dromos or of the genikon), but it could be assumed that at an earlier stage of his career, he was a protonotarios of the dromos.

But let us go back to the question of the occasion on which his correspondence was received in Develtos. There may have been various reasons, but it is quite possible that he was charged by his titular (the logothetes of the dromos) to meet and escort some Bulgarian embassy to Constantinople.

Taking into consideration the dating of the seal (820s), there was such Bulgarian embassy in connection with the signing of the peace treaty between Bulgaria and Byzantium in 815/816, or a little later for the settlement of the clauses of this treaty.

859. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος, πρωτοασηκρήτης καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (IX-X c.).

Archaeological Center, Develt, no.78. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 22-24)18) 2. 5 mm. Good imprint, though off-center. Slipping of the blank in the boulloterion occurred and one end was "bitten". The bulla itself is in a good state of preservation, disregarding the fact that the obverse is scratched.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девет*, № VII.14.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in Zacos collection. Its publisher (*Zacos, Seals*, II, no 185) dated it to the late IXth and the early Xth centuries, which is an acceptable dating for our seal too.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Inscription between two borders of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ooo | + ΙΩΑΝ | Ν'Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | ΘΑ'ACHK' | SA'NOT'T | ΟΝΔΡΟ'

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῶ δούλ(ῳ) Ἰωάνν(η) β'(πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίῳ) ἀσηκ(ρήτη)
(καὶ) (πρωτο)νοτ(αρίῳ) τοῦ δρόμ(ου)

The Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 55. 1. 1486) contains another seal with the same iconographic subject and invocation on the obv. and the following text on the rev.: +ΙΩΑΝ|. HR'Α'CΠΑ|Θ'SA'ACH| KPIT'

It has a similar dating (see *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 6) with that of our seal, thus allowing to accept (though the name John was too common) that they belonged to one person. The DO seal illustrates an earlier stage in his career.

John held the title protospatharios and combined two quite effective positions: πρωτοασηκρήτης and πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου. How he realised this in practice is hard for me to say. It is perhaps a kind of exception. Πρωτοασηκρήτης, as mentioned above, was a close associate of the emperor and at the head of the imperial chancellery, but along with that, he knew the particulars of the negotiations of the emepror with foreign envoys and embassies.

Πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου was an assistant and he sometimes acted deputy for the logothetes of the dromos. The combined holding of two such offices has to be explained perhaps with the urgency of the moment. Perhaps a foreign embassy arrived or was expected, at which John, having been a trusted man of the emperor, was attached and in his capacity as protonotarios of the dromos had a full-value participation in these nagotiations acting as a coordinator of the imperial policy as well.

The receipt in Develtos of a correspondence impressed with the seal of the protonotarios of the dromos attests to the fact that this practice (the kommerkion to be one of the subdivisions of the department of the logothetes of the dromos in the realization of his habitual activities) was still in existence fifty years later (taking into consideration the previous seal).

The bulla of John πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου was a witness of familiar and unknown Bulgarian-Byzantine relations realized through exchange of correspondence and embassies.

860. Ἰωάννης (?) β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (XI c.).

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17270. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-30 (22) 2 mm. W. 9.85 g. Unsuccessful imprint. Indistinct letters, some obliterated. Struck over another.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 130.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ in her l. arm. At r., sigla: M, Δ. Circular inscription within a border of dots beginning at 9 o'clock: + ΘΚΕΡΟΙΘΙΤΩCΩΔ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ R' A' C Π A | Θ' E Π I T 8. | P' S A' N O T. | T O V Δ..

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοίθι τῷ σῷ δ[ούλ(ω) Ἰω(άννη)] β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ
[χρ(υσοτ)]ρ(ικλίνου) (καὶ) (πρωτο)νοτ[α(ρίω)] τοῦ δ[ρό(μου)]

861. N., β'σπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ δρόμου (X c.).

RHM-Shumen, no. 14767. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Malak Preslavets, Silistra region. D. 14-25 (23) 2-5 mm. W. 4.80 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Логотети, № 15; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 236.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a cross with profiled arms. Poorly preserved half of the inscription with the invocation + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩ...

Rev. Cruciform monogram, of which the following letters are visible: above P, below W, at r. K and in center perhaps X. In the quarters:

.. | R' C | ... | Π P O | ... | A P I Ω | ... | P O M.

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῷ [δούλ(ω) N.,] β'σ[παθ(αρίω) (καὶ)] προ[τ(ο)νοτ]αρίω
[τοῦ δ]ρόμ[ου]

The inscription is incomplete. If we accept that the monogram records the family name or sobriquet of the owner of the seal, the missing two or three letters at the beginning of the inscription may record the proper name John or Constantine.

c) χαρτουλάριος τοῦ δρόμου:

862. Νικήτας β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ δρόμου (X-XI c.).

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22178. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 10-21 (over 22) 2 mm. Half of once good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 131.

No parallels known.

Obv. Decorative cross with flaring arms, each end decorated with three pellets; on either side, a fleuron up to the first arm; rosace in each of the upper quarters. Traces of a circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

...H T. | ...Π A Θ' E. | ...V C O T'. | ...T 8 Λ. | ...P O M

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει [τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Νικ]ήτ[α β'(πρωτο)σ]παθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ
χρ[υσοτ(ρικλίνου)] [(καὶ) χαρ]τουλ(ά)[ρ(ίω) τοῦ δ]ρόμ(ου)

863. Χριστοφόρος πριμικήριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ δρόμου τῆς Δύσεως (X c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 15032. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 20-21 (20) 2.3 mm. Unsatisfactory imprint, the blank has not been centered properly in the bulloterion. The bulla itself is poorly preserved, especially its reverse.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, II, № 17.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

.ΚΕ.. | .ΩC.ΔO V | Λ'X..C T O | Φ' A' M I K' | Π I Ω

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

+ K A I | X A P T 8 Λ A | Π I Ω T 8 Δ P O | M 8 T H C Δ V | C E Ω C

+ Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ] δούλ(ω) Χ[ρ]ιστοφ(όρω) (πρι)μικ(η)ρίω καὶ
χαρτουλάριω τοῦ δρόμου τῆς Δύσεως

864. Χριστοφόρος β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν βαρβάρων (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15492. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 216. Find-spot: Melnitsa. D. 14-23 (22) 2.5 mm. W. 3.90 g. Half of what was once an excellent imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. A griffin on l., attacking a dragon.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.... C T | Ω' R' C | ... P O K A N | ... E Π I T O | ... A P R A P | . + .

[+ Χρ]ιστ[οφ]όρ[ω] β'σ[παθα]ροκαν[δ(ι)δ(ά)τ(ω)] ἐπὶ τὸ[ν β]αρβάρων

4. Logothetes tou stratiotikou

865. Νικήτας, ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ στρατιωτικοῦ (X c.).

RHM-Shumen, no. 15177. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 173. Find-spot: uncertain (region of Plovdiv ?). D. 27-28 (22) 2.5 mm. W. 10.96 g. Well-centered and complete imprint, but damaged most probably during the unearthing. Good patina.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 237.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base up to second transverse bar. Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩ...Ω

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ N I K H | . . A N Θ V Π. | . . T P' R' A' C | . . Θ' S C T P | A T I Ω T' K' | Λ O Γ O Θ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ [δούλ(ω) Νικ]ήτ[α] ἀνθυπ(ά)[τ(ω) πα]τρ(ικίω) β'
(πρωτ)ωσ[πα]θ(αρίω) (καὶ) στρατιωτ(ικοῦ) λογοθ(εσίω)

5. Logothetes ton agelon

His department was first attested in the early IXth c., but it is generally agreed that it succeeded the praepositus gregum of the IVth c., although there is no direct evidence

of the link. It had under its control the large stock-breeding centers in Asia Minor and the Rhodopes, where horses and mules were raised for the needs of the Palace, the administration and mostly the army. At war time, the logothetes of the herds had to gather and care for the horses and draught animals pending their passing on to κόμης τοῦ σταύλου.

At the head of the department was λογοθέτης τῶν ἀγελῶν and his closest assistant and proxy, when he was absent, was ἐκ προσώπου τοῦ λογοθέτου τῶν ἀγελῶν.

Lit. Bury, *System*, p.111; Brehier, *Institutions*, 107, 127, 226; Guiland, *Les logothetes*, 71-75; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p.328; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, 289-290; ODB, 1247.

866-871. Βασίλειος β' ὁστιάριος, ἀσηκρῆτης καὶ ἐκ προσώπου τοῦ λογοθέτου τῶν ἀγελῶν (X-XI c.).

866. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2392. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-19 (19 ?) 2 mm, W. 4.30 g. Unsuccessful imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 132.

867. RHM-Shumen, 14730/16. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 14-24 (?) 2 mm. Fragment about a half.
Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 238.

868. RHM-Shumen, no. 14855/1]. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23-24 (20) 3 mm. W. 6.16 g. Unsuccessful imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 240.

869. RHM-Shumen, no. 14855/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 22-23 (18) 3 mm. W. 6.60 g. Unsuccessful imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 241.

870. RHM-Shumen, no. 14905. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 20-22 (21) 3 mm. W. 6.40 g. Unsuccessful imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 242.

870a. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad [XI 2008]). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 25-26 (?) 2 W. 8.90 g. Unsuccessful imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Unpublished.

871. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Find-spot: Preslav. Found during excavations of the *Palace Center – Southwest* site in 2007. D. 24.5-25 (21) 2.6 mm. W. 9.36 g. Blurred imprint, parts of the fields did not print, dented by a sharp object during excavations. We restore the letters of indistinct graphics on the basis of the other specimens.
Unpublished.

Obv. A decorated composition with an elaborate fleuron in each quarter. Traces of a circular inscription:

866-70: HΘEI ΛΩ

871: +K.ROHΘ CΩ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

866-69: ⚡|+RACHΛ' | . . . CTHAP' | . . . PIT'SEK | .POCO . . . | ΛΟΓΟΘ . . | T'ΑΓΕΛΟ

871: . . ⚡|+RACHΛ' | R'OCTHAP' | . KPIT'SEK | .POCOΠ,T | ΛΟΓΟΘΕΤ | ΛΟ

870: +RAC . | ΛΙΩ . . T | APH . . . | . ΑΓ . . . | T'O . . .

870a: +R . . . | . ΙΩ . C . | APH OSA' | |

[+K(ύρι)ε βο]ήθει [τῷ σῷ δού]λῳ Βασηλ(είῳ) [β'ὁ]στηαρ(ίῳ) [ἀσηκ]ρίτ(η) (καὶ) ἐκ [π]ροσό[π(ου) τοῦ] λογοθ[έτου] τ(ῶν) ἀγελο(ν)

Obviously no. 870-870A are different from the first three. Unfortunately, its text is incomplete and we cannot determine the exact position of Basil.

872. Νικήτας Χαλκούτζης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου τῶν ἀγελῶν (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 94. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-18.5 (20 ?) 3 mm. W. 6.24 g. A rather small part of the dies was printed on the obviously smaller blank.

Ed. Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 744.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Shaw collection no. 1055 (see Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 591). We follow it in the restoration of the missing lines and letters of our specimen.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

..... | ...CΠ. | ΘΑΡ'Ε. |

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.... | .. ΛΩΝ | .ΧΑΛΚ8 | THC

[+Νικήτας β'(πρωτο)]σπ[α]θαρ(ιος) [(καὶ)] ἐκ προσ(ώ)που τῶν ἀγε]λῶν [ὁ] Χαλκούτζης

6. Treasuries

α) σακελλάριος

Σακέλλη

A department at the head of which was β'σακελλάριος. He was responsible for the state treasury and exercised financial control over all departments throughout the Empire.

As a term it first appeared during the reign of Zeno (474-491). In the VIIth c., it became independent and already in the IXth c. it was an office of a very high rank. During the reign of Emepor Nikephoros III (1078-1081), the titular of the department was called μέγας σακελλάριος.

Certain development and change of his duties is observed in the XIth c. It gradually abandoned the control over the state funds as a whole and specialized as a department imposing taxes on the navy and sea trade. Documents concerning this activity were registered in his sekreton. Along with that, μέγας σακελλάριος had control over the treasury for the paying of the senators' rent (roga). Until 1058, it was in the prerogatives of the idikon. The last mention in the written sources is in 1196 (see Laura, I, nos. 67-68).

For the normal functioning of this department, β'σακελλάριος had a staff of numerous assistants, which however are not attested on sphragistic monuments. The great number of notarioi, who represented him in every department, were also subordinate to him.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 84-86; Brehier, *Institutions*, 130, 257-258; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p.

312; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, 383-384; **Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, p. 135; *OBD*, 1828-1829.

When and where in the territory of modern Bulgaria were letters from imperial sakellarioi received?

Eleven of ninth different titulars dated generally to the period IX-Xth centuries have been found from the territory of modern Bulgaria.

With the exception of two specimens, from Develtos (no. 873) and Pliska (no. 878), the remaining nine originate from Preslav. Among the Preslav finds, only one specimen is from the late IXth c., the rest are from the Xth c. down to 950s-960s. The Preslav finds have come from archaeological excavations, which makes it possible to establish the exact place in the Bulgarian capital where the correspondence of the Byzantine imperial sakellarioi was received. In two places: at the Selishte locality of the Outer City in the so-called Grazhdanski Complex, where 4 specimens were found. Further 5 specimens originate from the Inner City near the Southern Gate. The seals from Preslav, besides presenting the names of six titulars of this department, could suggest a relative chronology for the titulars, specifically for the Xth c.

1. John, patrikios, imp. protospatharios and imp. sakellarios (first half of the IX c.)
2. Leo patrikios, protospatharios and imperial sakellarios (IX-X c.)
3. John anthypatos, patrikios, imp. protospatharios epi tou chrisotriklinou and imp. sakellarios (X c.)
4. Constantine patrikios, protospatharios and sakellarios (X c.)
5. Michael anthypatos, patrikios, imp. protospatharios and imp. sakellarios (X c.)
6. Peter, antypatos, patrikios, protospatharios and imperial sakellarios (X c.)
7. Joseph patrikios, praipopsitos and imperial sakellarios (945-?)
8. Paul Monomachos, antypatos, patrikios, imp. protospatharios and imperial sakellarios (before 954)
9. Nicholas Angoures imp. protospatharios epi tou chrisotriklinou and imperial sakellarios (X c.)
10. Sisinius protospathariso and imperial sakellarios (?-959);

The receipt in the Bulgarian capital of correspondence from the sakellion is probably connected with financial relations between Bulgaria and Byzantium, mostly regarding the annual tribute, which the empire paid to the Bulgarian state.

As was stated above, with the exception of one titular only, seals from the logothesion of the genikon were almost not received in Preslav. By contrast, correspondence from the imperial sakellarion was received there. How can this difference be accounted for? Was it not a case of merging of the functions of these departments? Evidence of the like is the situation in Bulgaria. Generally, when Pliska was a capital, the correspondence of the logothetes genikos was predominantly received there, and when Preslav was a capital center, the receipt of active correspondence in the city was from the imperial sakellarion!

873. Ἰωάννης πατρίκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (820s-840s)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 275. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 27-30 (26) 3 mm. W. 9.80 g. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the two dies did not print. The bulla itself is in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Девелт*, № VII. 49: **Jordanov**, *Fiscal*, no. 64.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters: ΤΩ-С. || .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΩΑΝΝΗ | ΤΡΙΚΙΩΑ'СΠΑ | ΠΙΩSB'CA... | ΛΑΡΙ.

[+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σ[ῶ] δ[ούλ]ω [Ἰ]ωάννη [πα]τρικίω (πρωτο)σπα[θα]ρίω (καὶ) β'σα[κελ]λαρί[ω]

The dating of the seal, according to its paleography and mostly the environment in which it was found, is to 820s-840s. The owner of the seal was perhaps one of the early titulars of this department, after it was established in the Empire.

874-875. Ἰωάννης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσотρικλίνου καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 130. Found in the course of excavations of Grazhdanski Complex site in the Selishte locality in Preslav. D. 25-29 (24) ? mm. Incomplete imprint. Bulla in a good state of preservation, but with a portion chipped.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Fiscal*, no. 65.

875. Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found in the course of excavations of the so-called Mostich Church supervised by Prof. Kazimir Popkonstantinov in 2006.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 779).

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

....ΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΙΩΑΝ | .VΠ'ΠΑ..Η | Κ'Ρ'Α'СПА..Ε | ΠΙΤ8XPVCOT' | .ΙΚΛ'SR'CA | .ΕΛΛΑΡ'

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βο]ήθει τῷ σ[ῶ] δ[ούλ]ω Ἰω(άννη) ἀν[θ]υπ(άτω) πα[τρ]ηκ(ίω) β'(πρωτο)σπα[θα]ρίω (καὶ) ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσот[ρι]κλ(ίνου) (καὶ) β'σα[κελ]λαρ(ίω)

The publisher of the Dumbarton Oaks specimen dates it to the early XIth c., which is not supported by sufficient argument and does not rule out a Xth-century dating. The same author tries to identify the owner of the seal with another John represented by his seal in his capacity of protospatharios epi tou philochristou koitonites and imperial sakellarios (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no.780) – an attempt also lacking in argumentation. The only coincidence is the homonym and the position β'σακελλάριος. Our seal is closer to a specimen preserved in Shaw Collection 567 (no. 844), formerly in Schlumberger Collection (see *Sig.*, p. 580, no.1). If they belonged to one person, which is not very likely, it reflects an earlier period in his career.

876-877. Ἰωσήφ πατρίκιος, πραιποσήτος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)

876. RHM-Shumen, no. 14538. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 28-31 (26-26;19-19) 3 mm. W. 16.40 g. Well-centered and complete imprint, but some of the letters were subsequently effaced.

Ed. Йорданов, Йосиф Вринга, 51-57, № 1; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 66; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 243

877. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 16. Found in the course of excavations of Grazhdanski Complex site, square Г2, at a depth of 0.30 m in the Selishte locality on 5th June 1974. D. 20-23.5 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, doubled, as it seems, by the slipping of the blank in the boulloterion.

Ed. Йорданов, Йосиф Вринга, 51-57, № 2; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 67.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Between two borders of dots, the invocation: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩC.... . Ω

In center, cruciform invocative monogram containing the letters ΙΩΧΗΦ. In the quarters: ΠΑΤ-ΡΙΚ' || ΠΡ'Π-ΩC'Τ'

Rev. Between two borders of dots, the inscription from obv. continues: RA.....ΩΠΡΟΤΩCΠΑ...

ΙΩ

In center, cross with pellets at each end (X at both crossing); in the quarters: Κ'RA-CIA

|| CAK'-ΛAP'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σ[ῷ] δούλ[ῳ] Ἰωσήφ πατρικ(ίω) πρ(αι)πωσ(ή)τ(ω) βα[σιλικῷ] ᾧ
πρωτοσπα[θα]ρίω κ(αὶ) βασιλ(ικῷ) σακ(ε)λαρήω

The owner of the seal affixed to at least two communications to the Bulgarian capital is Joseph, patrikios, praipositos, imperial protospatharios and imperial sakellarios. It can generally be dated to the mid-Xth century. An individual holding these positions in the Byzantine administration is known from this time.

It is Joseph Bringas, the famous courtier and eunuch (on him, see Guillard, *Recherches*, I, p. 206).

His name was first mentioned in 945: We find the following information for the year 945 in *Продолжатель Феофана*, c.184: "The God-loving and beauty-loving basileus Constantine found the patrikios and praipositos Joseph, a man of a disposition similar to his (he was judicious in the state affairs and his wit was quicker than a bird's) and initially appointed him sakellarios and later drungarios of the fleet, which he entrusted to his full control."

The name of the same Joseph is later reported prior to the death of Constantine VII in 959 and in connection with the ascension of Romanos II (959-963): "in his deathbed, the basileus appointed his son Romanos authokrator and entrusted him to the cares of patrikios and praipositos Joseph, whom he charged by oath to protect his son using his large experience." (see *Продолжатель Феофана*, c.192).

Later on, the parakoimomenos Joseph Bringas held key positions in the imperial government during the reign of Romanos II and after his death, but when Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969) ascended the throne, he descended the stage of history.

Joseph holds the titles patrikios, praipositos and imperial protospatharios (bequeathed to eunuchs) and the office imperial sakellarios on the present seal. In the context of the above events, he must have held these positions immediately after 945. His correspondence was received in Preslav precisely in this capacity. Who was its addressee? On what occasion was it sent? Why was it sent specifically to the so-called Grazhdanski Complex in the Selishte locality? To answer these questions, we need to make a survey of all the seals found there. Some ideas could be found in Jordanov, Preslav Corpus, p. 28.

878. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρικίος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ σακελλάριος (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 1210. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 26-26 (20) 2.5 mm. W. 13.34 g. Off-centered imprint and bulla in a poor state of preservation. Holed in center, presumably used as a weight.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 23; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 68

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΩΝCΤ | ANTIN.ΠΑ | TP...A'CΠ | ..SCAKEL | .APHΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κωνσταντίν[ω] πατρ[ικ(ίω) β']

(πρωτο)σπ[αθ(αρίω)] (καὶ) σακελ[λαρήω]

879. Λέων πατρικίος, πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21. Found in a stone grave in Selishte locality in Preslav. D. 24-25 (23) 2.1 mm. The reverse is printed to the left. The boulloterion was perhaps loosened and there was a dislocation of the blank in the matrixes. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Герасимов, Преслав, № 3, табл. II.11; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 69.

Parallels: Another specimen with the same depiction and text, but nevertheless from a different pair of dies is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (see Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 757.)

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her breast. No sigla. Circular inscription between two borders of dots: + .ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ | ΛΕΩΝΤ' | .ΑΤΡΗΚ'Α' | .ΠΑΘ'SR'C | ΑΚΕΛΑ' | +

+ [Θ(εοτό)]κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Λέωντ(ι) [π]ατρηκ(ίω)

(πρωτο)[σ]παθ(αρίω) (καὶ) β'σακελα(ρίω)

The publisher of the Preslav specimen proposed dating to the first half of the XIth c. The iconography of the Virgin, the paleography of the letters and the entire text suggest a late IXth- and the early Xth-century dating. The Dumbarton Oaks specimen is dated to the last quarter of the IXth century.

880. Μιχαήλ ἀνθύπατος, πατρικίος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β' σακελλάριος (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 54. Found in the course of archaeological excavations in the Inner City of Preslav near the Palace, sector 162, square 164, depth 0.85 m on 11th August 2005. D. 29-31 (27) 2.1 mm. W. 10.70 g. Large flat blank, incomplete imprint, especially the reverse which is moved to the left.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Two other specimens struck with the same pair of dies or by the same bulloterion were preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (Fogg, A. M., no. 1349) Archaeological Museum Istanbul, fonds Diogen, no. 8. See Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 776.

Obv. Circular inscription containing the invocation: .. Γ'ΝΙΚΟΛΑ ΤΩCΩΔ'

[+ "Α]γ(ι)ε Νικόλα[ε βοήθει] τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ). Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-N-I || K-O-Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+MIX... | ANΘVΠATO | ΠATPIK'R'A' | CΠAΘ'SR'C | AKΕΛΛA.
Μιχ[αήλ] ἀνθυπάτο πατρικ(ίω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) β'σακελλ[α(ρίω)]

881. Νικόλαος Ἀγγούρης β'πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ β'σακελλάριος (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.13. Discovered in the course of archaeological excavations of the site Graždanski Complex in the Selishte locality in Preslav. D. 29-32 (28) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. The lower half of the depiction and the last line of the text of the reverse are clipped. Almost all letters of the reverse did not print.

Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 4; *Jordanov, Fiscal*, no. 70.

Parallels: Another specimen (DO. 55. 1. 2923) struck with the same pair of dies is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (see *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no.778).

Obv. Circular inscription containing the invocation: ΕΓΕΟΡΓΗΕΡΟ

[+ Ἁγι]ε Γεοργήε βο[ήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ]

St. George nimbate, beardless, with short curly hair, represented standing frontally. He wears an armor mail and a cloak. With his right hand he props himself against a spear ending with a globe at the top and in his left hand he holds a shield. On either side, the vertical inscription: ο-A-Γ-H-O' || Γ-Ε-Ω-P-Γ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΝΙΚΟΛΑ'.Α'CΠΑΑΘ'Ε | .IT'XPVCOT' | ..CAKΕΛΛ. | ..OTOAN | ..VPH
Νικολά(ω)[β'](πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐ[π]ὶ τ(οῦ) χρυσοτ(ρικλίνου) [(καὶ) β']
σακελλ[αρί]ο το Ἀν[γο]ύρη

882. Παῦλος Μονομάχος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ β'σακελλάριος (X c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 30-32 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. *Йорданов, Преслав*, № 134; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 481.

No parallels known.

Obv. Between two borders of dots, the invocation:

+KVPIEROHΘEITΩCΩΔONΛΩ

In center of the enclosed field, a cruciform monogram recording the name ΠΑΥΛΩ. In the quarters: AN-ΘV || ΠA-TΩ

Rev. Between two borders of dots, the inscription from above continues:

RACIΛIKΩΠPOTΩCΠAΘAPIOΠATPIKIOKAI R'CAKΕΛAPIO

In center of the enclosed field, a cruciform monogram recording the name:

οΜΩΝ(O M)AX.

When unbinding the monograms, straightening the text and connecting it from either side, we can read the following:

+Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Παύλῳ ἀνθυπάτῳ, πατρικίῳ βασιλικῷ πρωτοσπαθαρίῳ καὶ β'σακελαρίῳ το Μων(ομ)άχῳ

The same dignitary was patrikios, protospatharios and logothetes genikos at an earlier stage (see nos. 801-811).

The dating of the two groups of seals is generally to the Xth c. The correspondence impressed with them (particularly active in his capacity as logothetes genikos) was received in Preslav, when it was a capital city.

The name of magistros Paul Monomachos, who in 954 was dispatched on a mediating mission to the emir Chambadas in connection with the supposed captivity of the domestikos of the schools Bardas Phokas, is reported in Skylitzes (see *Skylitzes*, 241.30).

If we accept that it is the same person, then his seals found in Preslav and Chersones reflect an earlier period of his career, prior to 954.

883-884. Πέτρος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ β'σακελλάριος (X c.)

883. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 5134. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 28-28 (24) 2 mm. W. 8.94 g. Incomplete imprint with indistinct letters.

Ed. *Йорданов, Преслав*, № 133; *Jordanov, Fiscal*, no. 72.

884. RHM-Shumen, no. 14698. Purchased by Yanko Todorov from Shumen. It was presented to me for documentation on 9 January, 2001. Find-spot, according to its finder: Malkia Fisek; I suppose Preslav as its true find-spot. D. 30-30 (27) 3 mm. W. 13.40 g. Off-centered and incomplete imprint. The dies printed only on the channel swelling. Bulla in a poor state of preservation. The restoration is made on the basis of the Preslav specimen

Ed. *Jordanov, Fiscal*, no. 73; *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 245.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Another specimen with the same iconography and text but with a different lettering of the last line is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58. 106. 2524 see *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 763).

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from the base (up to the lower arm). Circular inscription along a border of dots: . Ε..... ΤΩCΩΔ....

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.ΠΕΤPΩ | ANΘVΠ'ΠA | . PIK'A'CΠAΘ' | ...T'XPVCO |A'SR'CA |P'
[+K(ύρι)]ε [βοήθει] τῷ σῷ δ[ούλῳ] Πέτρῳ ἀνθυπ(άτῳ) πα[τρ]ικ(ίω)
(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [ἐπὶ] τ(οῦ) χρυσο[τρικ]λ(ίνου) (καὶ) β'σα[κελα]ρ(ίω)

aa) νοτάριος τῆς σακέλης

885. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθάριος, κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου καὶ β'νοτάριος τῆς σακέλης (X c.)

Private collection (passed on by the Police to the National Historical Museum in Sofia, where I documented it).

Find-spot: uncertain. D. 29-30 mm. Imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

KΩNA' | CΠAΘ'KPI | T'T8RHL'S | R'NOTAP' | TICCAKE | ΛHC
Κων(σταντῖνος) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) κριτ(ῆς) τοῦ βήλ(ου) καὶ β'νοτάρ(ιος)
τῆς σακέλης

b) ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου

Private (ἰδικου), and later, after the Xth c., termed special (εἰδικου) treasury. It was first attested in the written sources in 829-842. Its etymology and content are debated. It refers to a state treasury preserving the following:

- the currency in current circulation used for paying the senators' rent;
- valuables, especially gold and silk (materials, clothes, silk braids, etc. supplied by the imperial workshops or free artisans). Actually, this is the basic state currency reserve.
- Objects in store for special use, such as uniforms and equipment of Arabian spies

The titulars of this department were initially called ἐπὶ τοῦ β'λόγου; ἐπὶ τοῦ ἰδικου; ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου and λογοθέτης τοῦ εἰδικου (after XIth c.).

After the XIth c., the distribution of the rent for the senators passed over to the sekreton of the sakellarioi. Its other functions were taken over by other departments and it was gradually liquidated. Its last mention is in 1088.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 98-100 Brehier, *Institutions*, 267-268; Guiland, *Logothetes*, 85-100; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 316-317; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, 303-305; Oikonomides, *Evolution*, p. 137.

The following seals of this department were discovered from the territory of modern Bulgaria:

- Theodore imp. protospatharios epi tou eidikou logou (IX c.) see below:
- 2-10. Nikephoros imp. protospatharios and epi tou eidikou logou (X c.) see below:
11. Peter imp. protospatharios and epi tou eidikou logou (X c.) see below:
12. Philitos protospatharios epi tou chrysotriklinou and epi tou eidikou logou (X c.), see below.

Eleven of the twelve lead seals of this department were found in Preslav. Of special interest are the eight lead seals of Nikephoros, unearthed at the same site in Preslav in the so-called Grazhdanski Complex. Discovered there, as was noted above, were four seals of imperial sakellarioi, one of unknown logothetes genikos, one of the eparchos of Constantinople and other Byzantine and Bulgarian seals from the capital period of the city. Obviously, they have as their addressee the person or institution located in this complex during the capital period of the city, and this person or institution maintained contacts with the Byzantine fiscal departments. Therefore, it should have had functions similar to theirs. Unfortunately, it is hard to determine who was directly responsible for the financial resources of the state in medieval Bulgaria. What is known is that the Ichirguboi resided in Preslav. It is also known that he was responsible for a considerable amount of state property. Along with that, he also functioned as a foreign minister. Perhaps he was located in this complex. Here the Byzantine envoys arrived and presented their charters. Thus, it could be assumed that he was the receiver of the correspondence impressed with the seals found there. Certainly, all that calls for further investigation.

886. Θεόδωρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (first half, IX c.)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 274. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos from the first period of its activity. D. 27-31 (?) 2.5 mm. W. 10.69 g. Incomplete imprint. Only the letters in the center of the dies printed.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девет*, № VII.48; Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 74.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters: .Ω-СΩ || .8- Λ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..ΟΔΩ. | ..Α'СΠΑ. | ..ΙΤ'ΕΙΔ. | . ΟΓ8

+Θεοτόκε βοήθει [τ]ῷ σῷ [δ]ούλ[ω Θε]οδώ[ρῳ β'] (πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίῳ) ἐπ]ὶ
τ(οῦ) εἰδ(ι)[κ(ου) λόγου]

The dating of the bulla, according to the environment in which it was found and its iconography, is to the first half of the IXth c. It could be assumed that the owner of the seal was one of the first titulars of this department. Of course, when a particular office is mentioned in the sources, it does not mean that it did not exist in an earlier period. In the *Taktikon* of Uspenskij, which is contemporary to the seal, the titular is represented as holding precisely this title ὁ πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (see Oikonomides, *Listes*, U 53.21).

887-895. Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (X c.)

All nine specimens were struck with the same pair of dies and were discovered in the same circumstances: in the course of excavations of the Grazhdanski Complex site in Selishte locality in Preslav. It appears that they all were struck on blanks from the same mold. The only exceptions are perhaps nos. 889 and 891. It is also observed that when the imprint is perpendicular to the channel, it is printed only along the channel.

887. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 3. Found in square II.3 on 11th August, 1975. D. 22-22 (20) 2 mm. Not very well-centered imprint, but good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 75;

888. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 4. Found in the same circumstances and parameters. D. 21-21 (20) 2.2 mm. Weak imprint due to weak striking. Parts of the dies did not print.
Ed. Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 76;

889. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 5. Found in square E.1, on 24th August 1978. D. 22-23 (20) 3 mm. Low-quality imprint; bulla in a poor state of preservation. Oxidated.
Ed. Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 77;

890. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 6. Found in square II.3, on 23rd August, 1975. D. 19-21 (20) 2.1 mm. Bent. Once a fairly good imprint. Incomplete, especially on the obverse, where the edge of the blank was not pressed with the dies.
Ed. Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 78;

891. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 7. Found in square II.5 on 23rd April, 1975. D. 22-25 (20) 2.8 mm. Incomplete imprint. Only the parts on the channel swelling and along the circumference printed on the blank.
Ed. Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 79;

892. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 8. Found in square II.3 on 23rd April, 1975. D. 19-22 (20) 2.5 mm. Imprint the same as the above. One side of the bulla is folded.
Ed. Jordanov, *Fiscal*, no. 80;

893. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 9. The same circumstances of discovery as with no. 887. Half

of what was once perhaps a good imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 81;

894. RHM-Shumen, no. 14789/4. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 14-22 mm. W. 3.60 g. Half of what was once a good imprint. The text below is a restoration on the basis of better preserved specimens.
Ed. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 82; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 246.

895. RHM-Shumen, no. 15477/6. Find-spot: Preslav. Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07. 07) D. 12-21 (19) 2.1 mm. W. 2.88 g. Fragment smaller than a half of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of St. Prokopios nimbate, beardless with long hair flanking his face and a band or a wreath on his forehead. He wears a chlamys pinned with a fibula at r. and holds a martyr's cross (r. hand) in front of his chest. Vertical inscription in two columns:
Θ || Π-Ρ-Ο' Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' ΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ ΝΙΚΗ | ΦΟΡΟΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'ΚΕΕ | ΠΙΤ'ΙΔΙΚ' | ΛΟΓΟΝ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Νικηφόρο β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) κὲ ἐπὶ τ(οῦ)
ἰδικ(ου) λόγου

896. Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15290. Find-spot: Preslav ? D. 20-22.5 (23 ?) 2.5 mm. W. 5.66 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint. Open along the channel.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 247.
No parallels known.

Obv. Double border of pellets between two circles of dots. Inscription of four lines:
Θ. Ε | .. Η. ΕΙ | . ΩCΩ | ΔΟΝΛ'
Rev. Double border of pellets between two circles of dots. Inscription of four lines:
+ΠΕΤΡ | ΩΡ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΕΠΙΤ. . | ΕΙΔΙΚ'
[+]Θ(εοτό)[κ]ε [βο]ή[θ]ει [τ]ῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Πέτρῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ)
ἐπὶ τ[οῦ] εἰδικ(ου)

897. Φιλιτὸς πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ εἰδικου λόγου (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Found accidentally in Bial Briag locality in the outskirts of Preslav on 21st September, 1963. D. 25-30 (22) 2 mm. W. 10.58 g. Incomplete imprint; bulla broken into two parts.
Ed. Ъорданов, Преслав, № 135. Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 83.
No parallels known.

Obv. Decorative cross with flaring arms, each end decorated with three pellets; on either side fleuron up to the first arm. Remains of a circular inscription; +...ΟΗΘΕΙΤ.....
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
.ΦΙΛΙΤ' | Α'CΠΑΘ'ΕΠ | C'T..K | . ΕΠΙΤ'ΕΙ.. | Κ8ΛΟ..

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β]οήθει τ[ῷ] σῷ δούλῳ] Φιλιτῷ (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) ἐπ(ὶ) τ(οῦ)
χρυσ(ο)τρικλίνου) [(καὶ)] εἰδ[ι]κου λό[γου]

Now in the light of the ascertainments for the presence in Preslav of Byzantine bullae of fiscal departments, it should not be associated with the functioning of the Strategia of Preslav.

c) β' βεστιάριου

A department first attested in the Taktikon of Uspenskij of 842/843, where the chartoularios of this office holding the title of patrikios was also presented (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, U 51.8).

Several types of vestiaria are known (see **Ebersolt**, *Vestiarium*, 81-89; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 316; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, 353-354; **Oikonomides**, *Fiscalite*, p. 291):

a) private, occurring under the name of τὸ οἰκειακὸν βασιλικὸν βεστιάριον with a eunuch at its head. He was in charge of the basileus's wardrobe: he preserved the precious attire, regalia and jewellery.

b) social or public, occurring under the name of βασιλικὸν βεστιάριον or βεστιάριον for short, with two sections in it:

a treasury, preserving the imperial treasures in stocks, coin currency, etc.;

an armoury, preserving various objects and goods necessary for the equipment of a large-scale land or naval military expedition.

The following designations were found on the seals of this department:

a) in the early period (VIIIth-IXth c.), the impersonal β' βεστιάριον was inscribed;

b) in the IXth c., the titular was noted: χαρτουλάριος τοῦ β'βεστιάριου;

c) in the Xth c., simply ἐπὶ τοῦ β'βεστιάριου was inscribed;

One of the earliest assistants of the titular of this department νοτάριος τοῦ βεστιάριου was also mentioned in the Taktika of Uspenskij and Philotheos (899) (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, U 61.17; Ph 121.15).

The discovery of five seals of this department in the kommerkia of Develtos and in Sozopolis is quite reasonable. They are Byzantium's territories and the contacts between the public treasury and officials from the kommerkia of Develtos and the tourma, and later also the kleissoura of Sozopolis, on these territories is a matter of course.

The discovery of two seals of this department in the vicinity of Pliska seems doubtful. If their find-spot is authentic, they illustrate contacts between the Byzantine public treasury and the Bulgarian capital Pliska.

ca) β' βεστιάριον

898. (20s-40s of the IX c.)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no.369. Found in the course of excavations, from the first period of the activities of the kommerkia. D. 18.5-28 (25) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. Half preserved. I have restored the whole text on the basis of other similar published bullae.

Ed. Ъорданов, Девелт, № VII.46; Jordanov, Fiscal, no. 1.

Parallels: Similar specimens are published in **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 569; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no 684. The

arrangement of the letters is the same, but they come from different boulloteria. A dating to the second half of the VIIIth c. is proposed in the cited publications.

Obv. Only the B with the abbreviation mark B' = β(ασιλικοῦ) is visible on the preserved fragment.

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ .. | CT... | I. + [βε]στ[ιαρ]ί[ω]
+ Βασιλικοῦ βεστιάριω

899. (first half of the IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14678/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 19-27 (?) 3 mm. W. 10.90 g. Fragment larger than a half.

Ed. Йорданов, Деветл [Addenda], № 9; *Jordanov*, Fiscal, no. 2; *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 248.

No parallels known.

Obv. The letter B' = β(ασιλικοῦ) occupying the whole field.

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ B. | CT... | IΩ
+ β[ε]στ[ιαρ]ί[ω]

900. (first half, IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14678/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 22-27 (?) 3 mm. W. 4.50 g. Incomplete imprint with a broken piece.

Ed. Йорданов, Деветл [Addenda], № 10; *Jordanov*, Fiscal, no. 3; *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 249.

Obv. The letter B' = β(ασιλικοῦ) occupying the whole field.

Rev. Inscription of two lines:

+ BЄ.. | APIO
+ βε[στ(ι)]αρίο

901. (first half, IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14807. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: Pliska-Kaspichan region. D. 25-25 (?) 3 mm. W. 13.06 g. Well-centered imprint in a superb state of preservation.

Ed. *Jordanov*, Fiscal, no. 4; *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 250.

Obv. The letter B' = β(ασιλικοῦ) occupying the whole field.

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ BЄ | CTIAP | IΩ
+ βεστιάριω

902. (first half, IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14954/1. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Reported find-spot: Pliska D. 12-25 mm. W. 5.54 g. Fragment smaller than a half.

Ed. *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 251.

The five specimens were struck in different boulloteria.

Parallels: Similar specimens are published in *Zacos, Seals*, I, no. 569 and *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 684. They have the same lettering, but come from different boulloteria.

903. Ἱμέριος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ β' βεστιάριου (IX c.)

Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 76. Found accidentally on the surface in sector Б -I of the kommerkion. D. 28-31 (27) 2 mm. W. 13.34 g. Good imprint, despite the slightly off-centered reverse with some letters out of the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Деветл, № VII.47; *Jordanov*, Fiscal, no. 5.

No parallels known.

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.18); in the quarters : TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. IMЄP. | ΩR' A' CΠAΘ | . PΙΩSXAPT8 | ΛAPIΩT8RE | CTIAPH'
+ Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἱμερήϊῳ β'(πρωτο)σπαθηαρίῳ καὶ
χαρτουλαρίῳ τοῦ βεστιάρι(ου)

In the publication cited above, an attempt was made for identification of the seal's owner with a well-known Byzantine dignitary by the same homonym, who held important positions in the Empire in the IXth-Xth centuries.

Now this dating of the seal and the attempted identification seem to me unconvincing. The specific circumstances around the discovery of the bulla are contradictory. The exact find-spot noted in the inventory book is sector Γ-II, i.e. from the second period of functioning of the kommerkia. Later, Mr. P. Balabanov, supervisor of the archaeological excavations, informed me in a letter that the bulla had been found in the bushes in sector Б -II, the location of the kommerkia in its first period (20s-40s of the IXth c.). With such an uncertainty in the dating, it will be more justifiable to leave the question of identification open.

904. Προκόπιος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ β' βεστιάριου (mid of the IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Varna. Found by a treasure-hunter with a metal detector on the land of the village of Isbul. The village of Isbul is situated in the hinterland of Pliska; treasure-hunters usually do not report the archaeological reserve as a find-spot, since it is a guarded area. D. 27-28 mm. W. 10,17 g. Once a superb imprint; now small portions chipped. This however does not make the reading of the whole text difficult.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска (1899-1999), 140-141, № 14. *Jordanov*, Fiscal, no. 6

No parallels known.

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters : TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΠΡΟΚΟ | ΠΙΩΠΑΤ Ρ'Β' | Α'ΣΠ'ΣΧΑΡΤ' | Τ'Β'Β..Τ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Προκοπίῳ πατρ(ικίῳ) β'(πρωτο)σπ(αθαρίῳ)
(καὶ) χαρτ(ουλαρίῳ) τ(οῦ) β' β[εσ]τ(ιαρίου)

ε) νοτάριος τοῦ β' βεστιαρίου

905. Βαάνης ὑπατος καὶ νοτάριος τοῦ β' βεστιαρίου (1040s).

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.25982. Found on the sea shore in Sozopol. Perhaps once a good imprint; now only a half preserved with a slightly corroded surface. All that renders the overall reading difficult. D. 20-33 mm.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Fiscal, no. 7.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters: ΤΩ-.. || Δ8- ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..ΑΑΝ | ..ΑΤΩΣ | ..ΤΑΡΙΩ | ..Ρ'ΡΕ. | .

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ [σῶ] δούλῳ Β[αάν(η)] [ὑπ]άτῳ (καὶ) [νο]ταρίῳ [τοῦ]
β' βε[σ]τ(ιαρίου)]

If the proposed restoration is correct, the owner of the seal affixed to the correspondence was the Armenian Vaanes who was attested in Sozopol by another of his bullae as well in his capacity as 'πρωτοσπαθάριος (see no. 452). It reflects a later period of his career. The full cursus honorum of Vaanes is also presented there.

906. Χριστοφόρος σπαθαροκανδίδατος β'νοτάριος τοῦ βεστιαρίου (X c.)

Historical Museum Nesebar, no. 1915. Find-spot: Sredetz, disc. Burgas. D.23.5-24 (22) 2 mm.W. 7.10 g. Well-centered and complete imprint. A portion cut.

Unpublished.

Obv. Griffin walking l., head turned backwards. Circular inscription around the image:

..R'ΧΡCΤΕΦΟΡ': [Κύριε] β(οήθει) Χρ(ι)στοφόρο β'

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots:

ooo | +CΠΑ | ΘΑΡ'ΚΑΝ | Δ'Ρ'ΝΟΤ. | RICTH. | ΡΙΟΝ

+σπαθαρο(κ)ανδ(ιδάτῳ) β'νοτ(αρίῳ) [τ(οῦ)] βιστη[α]ρίου

7. The Imperial Domains

They were governed by a numerous apparatus of officials forming various colleges:

a. μέγας κουράτωρ:

He was earliest attested in the years of emperor Maurikios (582-602) and was preserved until the beginning of the XIth c. (last mentioned in a document of Kultumus, no 5, 1.22).

His major assistants, according to Philotheos (899), see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 123.11-20) were the following:

πρωτονοτάριος

β'νοτάριος

κουράτορες τῶν παλατίων

κουράτορες τῶν κτημάτων

μεζότερος τῶν Ἐλευθερίου

οἱ ξενοδόχοι

β. ὁ οἰκονόμος τῶν εὐαγῶν οἰκῶν:

An office established in the XIth c. It came to replace that of μέγας κουράτωρ. He was at the head of a sekreton called ἐφόρων τῶν βασιλικῶν κουρατωρειῶν. His assistants, just as in the earlier period, were the following: protnoarioi and notarioi; kurators of the palaces in the capital, the suburbs and the province; kurators of domains of the crown around the capital and the provinces, most of which were to the East located in territories conquered in the Xth-XIth centuries.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, 100-103; **Dölger**, *Finanzverwaltung*, 39-40; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 318; **Idem**, *Evolution*, 138-139; *ODB*, 1156.

Presented below are seals connected with these departments and offices, those of domains in the provinces being included in the respective part.

a) μέγας κουράτωρ

907. Μύρων β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας κουράτωρ (IX c. second half)

Private collection (Ivan Yotov, Yambol). Found at the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Yambol.

D. 25-28 mm. Poorly centered strike, so that parts of the die are outside the blank. The first line of the text is cut off, rendering it difficult to read the homonym.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 43.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters:

.Ω-CΩ || .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

MVP.. | .Α'CΠΑΘ. | . ΓΑΛΩΚ. | .ΠΑΤΟΡΙ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει [τ]ῷ σῶ [δ]ούλῳ Μύρ[ωνι β'] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ)[(καὶ)
με]γάλῳ κ[ου]ράτορι

aa) μέγας κουράτωρ τῆς χρυσοεφίτης

The etymology of the term χρυσοεφίτης has been associated with a person who melts and works gold. In the Xth-XIth c., he was an imperial official, most probably a jeweller, who was connected with imperial goldsmith workshops (see **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, p.43).

908-909. Βασίλειος Χρυσοεφίτης β'σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ μέγας κουράτωρ (X-XI c.)

or

Βασίλειος β' σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ μέγας κουράτωρ τῆς χρυσοεφίτης (X-XI c.)

908. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 15966. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav, South Fortress Wall site, sector 3, square 22, 22nd August 1978. D. 21-23 (?) 2 mm. Only the central part printed. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, open along the channel. All that renders the reading uncertain.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 455.

909. Private collection. Perhaps the same find-spot as the preceding. D. 23-25 mm. The imprint is better but nevertheless incomplete.
Unpublished.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤ.....

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

. . ACH . | . . CΠAΘ' | . . . K'S . . | . . 8P . . | . VCO | . . I . .
. RACH . | . R'CΠAΘ' | . 8RIK'SME | Γ'K8P'T . | XVCO |
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Βαση[λ(ί)ω] β'σπαθ(αρο) [κ]ουβικ(ουλαρ-
(ί)ω) (καὶ) μεγ(άλω) κουρ(άτορι) τ(ῆς) χρυσο[εφ]ί[τ(ης)] or τῷ Χρυσο[εφ]ί[τ(η)]

In the previous publication, due to the poor state of preservation, the following restoration was proposed: Βαση[λ(ί)ω] β'σπαθ(αρο)[κ]ουβικ(ουλαρ(ί)ω) (καὶ) τουρμάρχη..... The second better preserved specimen emended this reading, but nevertheless did not solve completely the problem with the correct deciphering of the text.

Problematic is the reading of the last two lines: do they record a patronym or do they define what Basil was megas kourator to?

The collections of the Istanbul Archaeological Museum and the Dumbarton Oaks contain bullae of a person connected with our seal:

Obv. St. Basil standing with hands outstretched toward hand of God.

Rev. +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | RACIAEIO | A'CΠAΘ'ΕΠΙ || T8X ΓΚΛ'S K | ΗCTΩP'T | ΧΨΙΤΗ

The publisher of the specimens (**Laurent, Corpus**, II, no. 1110) was not sure whether it applies to some kind of an office supplementing that of the quaestor or a sobriquet or patronym. Before proceeding with my commentary, I should say that the office of quaestor itself is not certain. There is no illustration of the specimens and K | ΗCTΩP' proposed by the author is unusual for κ(οιαί)στωρ. Does it not cover K | 8CTΩP'?

It could be accepted that there is certain similarity between our seal and the one published by Laurent both in the name and the patronym or the definition to the office.

We also could accept both possibilities: that it applies to the patronym τῷ Χρυσο[εφ]ί[τ(η)] or to μεγ(άλω) κουρ(άτορι) τ(ῆς) χρυσο[εφ]ί[τ(ης)]. Both possibilities concern a person connected with the jeweller's work either by origin or directly connected with this trade.

In any case, the seal from Istanbul and DO reflects a later stage of Basil's career.

910-911. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ κουράτωρ (X-XI c.).

910. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24650. Find-spot: the strategia of Preslav. D. 20-23.5 (19 ?) 2 mm. W. 4.95 g. Both in the previous publication and here, the reading of the whole text and mostly the

position of the owner of the seal is problematic, due to the incomplete imprint. In the previous publication, from the available letters S. | . ATΩP I restored the text as follows: (καὶ) [μανδ]άτωρ(ι).
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 125.

911. RHM-Shumen, no. 15461. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-24 (19) 2 mm. W. 5. 74 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Only a few letters are visible from the last three lines.

Unpublished.

Both specimens are struck in a same bulloterion.

Obv. Decorative cross with flaring arms, each end decorated with three pellets; on either side, a fleuron up to the first arm. Remains of a circular inscription:

+ ΚΕ T
. ΕΙΤΩCΩΔO . . .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. ΚΩNC . | . . TINOR' . | Π . ΘAPK8 . | IK8ΛAP'S . | . . . ATΩP
+ ΚΩNCT | ANTINOR'C | ΠAΘAPK8 . | . . . ΛAP' . . | O
+ Κ(ύρι)ε [βοήθ]ειτῷ σῷ δο[ύλῳ] Κωνσταν]τίνο β'σπαθαρ(ο)κου[β]ικουλαρ-
(ί)ω) (καὶ) [κ]ο[υρ]άτωρ(ι)

ab) νοτάριος τῆς μέγας κουράτωρ

912-913. Ἰωάννης β' νοτάριος τῆς μέγας κουράτωρ (X-XI c.).

912. RHM-Silistra, no. 44. Find-spot: the town. D. 23.5-24 (18) 3 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation. Overstruck, the original imprint cannot be identified.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 8.

913. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 83. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-21 (20) 3 mm. W. 4.77 g. Incomplete imprint, but bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known

Obv. Patriarchal cross on at least two steps; X on crossing and at the end of each arm. On either side, fleurons rising to the top. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

+ΚΕΡΟΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

912. +ΙΩA | N'R'NOT. | P'T'ME . | KOVPAT | OPI .

913. . ΙΩΔ | . R'NOT. | . . MEΓ | . OVPAT | . PI.

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰωάν(νη) β'νοτ[α]ρ(ί)ω τ(ῆς) μεγ(άλω) κουράτορι ...

Although there are two available specimens, the reading of the text is problematic. The last letter of the last line is unclear: whether it is from the original or overstrike. In my previous publication regarding the Silistra specimen I accepted that the letter is A and proposed the following restoration: β'νοτ[α]ρ(ί)ω τ(ῆς) μεγ(άλω) κουράτορια(ς). In his brief review, Seibt assumed that this A records the kuratorate Ἀρτάξ, i.e. the seal belonged to β'νοτάριος τῆς μέγας κουράτωρ Ἀρτάξ (see **Seibt, SBS**, 3, p.154, no. 8).

With an uncertainty like this, it is more logical to ignore this sign and accept that it

applies to an ordinary β'νοτάριος τῆς μέγας κουράτωρ.

b) κουράτωρ τοῦ Πετρίου

914. Θεοφύλακτος πριμικήριος καὶ κουράτωρ τοῦ Πετρίου (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21577. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (20) 3 mm. W. 13.18 g. Overstruck.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав № 136.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps with fleurons rising to the top. Circular inscription along a border of dots : + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' ΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΕΟΦ. | ΛΑΚΤ'Α'ΚΗ | Ρ'SK8PAT' | Τ8ΠΕΤΡ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Θεοφ[υ]λάκτ(ω) (πριμι)κηρ(ίω) (καὶ) κουράτ(ωρι) τοῦ Πετρ(ίου)

915. Ἰωάννης β'ὀστιάριος καὶ κουράτωρ τῶν β'οἴκων τοῦ Πετρίου (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 24653. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22.5-25 (over 22) 3 mm. W. 8.10 g. In a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 137.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

....Ο | . ΘΕ.ΤΩ | CΩΔΟΝΛ'ΙΩ | Ρ'OC..A | -ΠΙΩ-

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

... Ω. | Κ8ΡΑΤΟ | ΡΙΤ8Ρ'ΟΙ | . 8Τ8ΠΕ | ΤΡΙ8

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β[ο]ή[θ]ει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Ἰω(άννη) β'ὀσ[τι]αρίω ...ω. [(καὶ)] κουράτορι τοῦ β(ασιλικοῦ) οἴ[κ]ου τοῦ Πετρ(ίου)

The collection of ANS Malbott (negative no. 8533) contains a bulla of the following description:

Obv. Decorative cross with flaring arms, each end decorated with three pellets. Along a border of dots, a circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. +ΙΩΑΝΝ|ΠΡΙΜΙΚ'Ρ'Α'|CΠΑ Θ'Κ'ΜΕΓ'Κ|.Ρ'Τ8ΟΙΚΟ'|..ΠΕΤΡ'

Obviously, it applies to a eunuch named John who held the effective office κουράτωρ τῶν β'οἴκων τοῦ Πετρίου. We could find a connection with our seal unless it is a commonplace coincidence.

916. Θεοφύλακτος κουράτωρ τοῦ μαγίστρου (IX-X c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to collection of Regional Historical Museum, Shumen, XII 2007). Find-spot: Outer City of Pliska. D. 17.5-19 (18) 2.5 mm. W. 5.38 g. Off-centered but well-made imprint. Perforated twice at the sides and as it seems it was sewn to something.
Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Potent cross on three steps. Traces of circular inscription beginning at left.

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots.

... |+ΘΕΩ | . VΛAKT . | . OVPAT . | . HT8M . | . CTP . .

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Θεοφυλάκτ[ω κ]ουράτ[ορ]η τοῦ μ[αγ]ιστρ[ου]

The last two lines of the inscription are incomplete which renders the reading difficult. The restoration offered is to a certain extent influenced by a note about the existence of an unpublished seal of a curator of the magistros in the Collection of IFEB no. 346 (see SBS, 6, p. 3, n.75).

c) κουράτωρες τῶν κτημάτων

It applies to the governing of the imperial domains κτήμα. There are published sphragistic monuments of individuals connected with this office most often κουράτωρες τῶν κτημάτων (see Zacos, *Seals*, II, nos. 181; 184; 220; 288; 849, etc.), but they do not exceed the Xth c. The seal from Bulgaria presented below belonged to κτημάτ(ινος), thus raising the question whether it was an effective position connected with this department or it had already developed into a title.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 100-103; Каздан, Деревня, 131-132; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 318, n.180.

917. Βασίλειος Καματηρὸς κτημάτηνος (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 114. Found in the course of archaeological excavations south of the Little Palace. D.25-27 (23) 6 mm. W. 22.25 g. Thick shapeless blank. Weak imprint. The obverse is poorly preserved. Some of the letters are indistinct or subsequently effaced.
Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 8; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 253.
No parallels known.

Obv. Only visible is the head of an indeterminate saint.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | RA..ΛΕΙΩ | ΚΤΗΜΑΤ | Τ'ΚΑΜ.

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλ)ω Βα[σι]λείω κτηματ(ίνω) τ(ῷ) Καμ(α)[τ(ηρῷ)]

d) μεζότερος

A class of officials, whose specific functions are debated. In some cases, it applies to representatives of the capital workshops in the domains, from where the raw materials used in the imperial workshops were provided. In other cases however, it applies to governors of imperial palaces, such as Ἐλευθερίου. In the sources from the IXth to the XIth centuries, μεζότεροι are more governors (kourators) of farming estates rather than connected with ergesterion.

The seal of μεζότερος presented below has a non-preserved last line recording the name of the palace or domain. The assumption that it applies to Λαμπροῦ, an imperial palace and domain in Constantinople, has been influenced by the next seal of episkeptites of Λαμπροῦ (see no. 919).

Lit. Oikonomides, *Listes*, 317-318; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, p.323.

918. Σταυράκιος β' μεζότερος τῆς Λαμπροῦ or Κυπροῦ? (VIII-IX c.)

Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-24 mm. W. 14.373 g. The obverse is completely obliterated and the imprint on the reverse is incomplete. It concerns mostly the last line recording the name of the imperial domain or palace. The proposed restoration is only one possible variant.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Almost completely obliterated surface. The outlines of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5) seems to be discernible.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

CTAY | .AKIΩB'. | EZOTE. | ...ΠPO.

[+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει Σταυ[ρ]ακίω β'[μ]εζοτέ[ρ(ω) Λαμ]προ[ῦ] / [Κυ]προ[ῦ]

e) ἐπισκεπτίτης

919. Βασίλειος σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ ἐπισκεπτίτης τῆς Λαμπροῦ (X-XI c.)

Private collection (G. Galabov from Sofia). Offered for purchase at the National Historical Museum, Sofia . D. 21-22(21)2 mm. Good imprint and specimen in a good state of preservation. In fact, the last letter of the toponym ΛΑΜΠΡ' is not so certain and in addition to the proposed reading, it could also be read as Λάμπη - the name of a known city.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8Λ' | RACIA'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

СПΑΘΑ | P'K8RIK' | СЕΠICK' | ΛΑΜΠΡ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Βασιλ(είω) σπαθαρ(ο)κουβικ(ουλαρίω) (καὶ) ἐπισκ(επτίτη) Λαμπρ(οῦ)

The above restoration of the toponym clearly relates it with Λαμπροῦ, an imperial palace and domain in Constantinople (see Janin, *Cple*, p. 379).

The collection of IFEB (no. 680) contains a bulla of Ἰωσήφ σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ ἐπισκεπτίτης τῆς Λαμπροῦ, who could be a successor or predecessor of Basil.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΙΩΗΦΚ8 | R8..ΕΠIC | ΚΕΠTITH | .HCLAM | -Π'-

(for the information on him, see Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 198, where he is erroneously or incompletely deciphered).

The seal of Εὐθύμιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ Λαμπροῦ attests to the existence of a palace, Λαμπροῦ, to which some title-bearers were attached (see Schlumberger, *Sig.*, 156-157. The same specimen or another, but struck in the same boulloterion, is perhaps preserved in Vienna (MK 103).

η) ξενοδόχος

Directors of inns, asylums and other charity and pious institutions affiliated to some imperial palaces, central and provincial departments, churches and monasteries.

Lit. Koukoules, *Vios*, II.1, 64-103; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 296, n. 50-51; Janin, *CP Byz.*, p. 570.

920-921. Δαμιανός β' βεστίτωρ καὶ ξενοδόχος τῶν Πυλῶν (last quarter of the IXth c.)

920. Archeological Museum, Sofia (currently of unknown place of preservation). Found in Pliska during excavations in 1931-1937 in room B of a chain building north of the so-called Boyar's dwelling. D. 29-30 (?) 2.5 mm. The bulla is badly preserved, its surface is heavily damaged by corrosion and the letters are hardly visible. There is a missing fragment as well.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 15. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 64.1a.

921. RHM-Shumen, no. 14708. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. The information is that it was discovered in Preslav (?). D. 25.5-26 (24) 3.1 mm. W.15.40 g. Remarkably well preserved imprint struck slightly off-centre.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 64.1b; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 319.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion. Their comparison resulted in the reading below.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5). In the quarter: TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

920 . ∴ . | +ΔAMIAN | R'RECTIT . . | ΣΕΕΝΟΔΟ . | ON . . ΛΟ .

921 . ∴ . | +ΔAMIAN | R'RECTITOP | ΣΕΕΝΟΔΟΧ | ONΠVΛON | . ∴ .

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Δαμιαν(ῶ) β' βεστιτόρ(ι) (καὶ) ξενοδόχ(ω) [τ]ὸν Πυλὸν

Who is Damianos β' βεστίτωρ καὶ ξενοδόχος τῶν Πυλῶν? If the dating of his seal (generally to the last quarter of the IXth century) and the discovery of the bulla in Pliska are taken into account, some connection might be sought with one of the correspondents of Patriarch Photius Δαμιανός ξενοδόχος. Three letters of the patriarch to Damianos dated to 859-867 have survived (see Photius, *Epistle*, nos. 109; 113; 195).

It is not possible to say to whom in Pliska Damianos β' βεστίτωρ καὶ ξενοδόχος τῶν Πυλῶν wrote but it could be to one of the leaders of the newly-built Bulgarian church, for instance the archbishop of Bulgaria George, on some matters of common interest.

922. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σκευοφύλακος καὶ ξενοδόχος τῶν Σάμψων (mid-IXth c.)

Archaeological Center Develt, no.192. Find-spot: the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 25.5-27 (21) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. The letters from the center of the dies mainly printed.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № VII.52.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters:

Ω-CTΩ || .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. + . | .ΩNCTA | ..INOR'CKE | ..Φ'ΞΕΝ. | ..T'CAM..

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει [τ]ῷ σῷ [δ]ούλῳ [Κ]ωνστα[ντ]ίνο β'σκε[υο]φυλάκι (καὶ)
ξεν(ο)[δ(ό)χῳ] τ(ῶν) Σάμ[ψων]

The restoration of the last two lines of the text is only one possible variant due to the incomplete imprint. Despite this uncertainty, there should be a commentary on the inscribed positions.

Σκευοφύλακος is an ecclesiastical office (see no. 1626) connected with the preservation of the holy implements needed for performing the Christian ritual. Σκευοφύλακος in the church of Hagia Sophia had a high rank in the ecclesiastical hierarchy and there are a number of cases when he was elected patriarch. This case however concerns β'σκευοφύλακος, thus rendering the identification slightly difficult. Is it an equivalent to skeuophylax of the imperial clergy (see **Darrouzes**, *Offikia*, p. 133,137) or a honorific title, with which the emperor distinguished some cleric, a close associate to the Palace?

ξενοδόχος also presents a certain problem: specifically to which charity institution it applies. The available letters have suggested to me to accept that it applies to the asylum and hospital in the capital neighborhood Σάμψων, located behind the church of Hagia Sophia (see **Janin**, *CP Byz.*, 42, 46, 163, 574).

Regarding the character of the correspondence received in Develtos, the assumption has been made that it could be in connection with the initial stage of the conversion to Christianity in Bulgaria and of the contacts of the Byzantine church with the newly-created ecclesiastical institutions in Bulgaria.

g) πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ β'οἴκου τῶν Μαγγάνων

His duties were connected with the management of the properties of the Mangana Palace in the capital and the province. He was perhaps subordinate to κουράτωρ τῶν Μαγγάνων (on him, see **Bury**, *System*, 100-103; **Dölger**, *Finanzverwaltung*, 39-40; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 318; **Janin** *CP Byz.*, 132-133).

923. Μιχαήλ β'σπαθαροκανδιδάτος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν καὶ πρωτονοτάριος τοῦ β'οἴκου τῶν Μαγγάνων (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2399. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-28 (24) 2.5 mm. W. 12.23 g. Well-centered imprint, but some letters did not print.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 138.

No parallels known.

Obv. Archangel (presumably Michael) standing full length, turned three quarters l., wearing chiton and himation. He props himself (l. hand) on a labarum with a long shaft and blesses (r. hand). The nimbus is well-depicted, the wings touch the ground. The scene

reminds of the Annunciation. Superb engraving and imprint attesting to a highly-experienced engraver of the dies. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

..ROHΘEITΩ CΩΔ...

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ MHXR'C | ΠΑΘ'KANΔΔ' | ΕΠΙΤ'ΟΙΚΗΑΚ | SA'NOT'T..| VΓ'T'MAΓ'

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε] βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ[ούλῳ] Μιχαήλ β'σπαθ(αρο)κανδ(ι)δ(άτῳ) ἐπὶ
τ(ῶν) οἰκηακ(ῶν) (καὶ) (πρωτο)νοτ(αρίῳ) τ[οῦ β'] ὑγ(ου) τ(ῶν) Μαγ(γάνων)

924. Λέων χαρτουλάριος τοῦ Ψωμάθειας (X c.)

Private collection (G. Galabov from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-21.5 (18) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Indeterminate bust of a saint, bearded, wearing a himation. He holds his r. hand in front of his chest and an indistinct object in his l. hand.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- . - | ΛΕΟΝ | ΧΑΡΤ8Λ' | Τ8ΨΟΜ | ΘΕΑ

+ Λέον χαρτουλ(άριος) τοῦ Ψομ(ά)θεα(ς)

The deciphering of the text and the commentary have been rendered difficult due to both the incomplete imprint and the position χαρτουλάριος τοῦ Ψωμάθειας not mentioned in other sources. Probably it applies to some imperial estate, whose name must have a bearing on the name of the neighborhood of Ψαμάθειας or Ψωμάθειας located in the southwestern corner of Constantinople between the Constantine and Theodosios walls inhabited by aristocratic and noble families. Three or four monasteries were also located at the same place (**Janin**, *Clp Byz.*, p. 282).

8. Justice

The administration of justice in Byzantium was not separated in a special office. All officials as representatives of the supreme power could administer the law within the functions they performed. Hence, a certain discrepancy appeared. The higher dignitaries presiding over various courts were sometimes incompetent in the sphere of legislation. For that reason, lawyers (κριται), members of the respective courts who were responsible for the court orders, were attached to them.

A different number of law courts functioned during the different periods of the history of Byzantium. The aim of the present statement is not to trace down the history of justice administration in Byzantium, rather than to serve as an introduction to the sphragistic material presented below.

Presented below is a brief survey of those law courts presided by officials whose seals were discovered in the territory of modern Bulgaria.

A. Ἐπαρχος τῆς Πόλεως

An institution established in Constantinople on December 11th 359. He presided over a court called ἑπαρχικὸν βῆμα, which had jurisdiction (both civil and penal) over Constantinople and its suburbs, whose judgements could be disputed only before the emperor. His administrative power over the capital could be restricted only by the emperor. The municipality, the police, trade, supply of provisions, prices, crafts, sojourn of foreigners, the circuses, the public manners, etc. were over his control and he was a real successor of the praefectus Urbi.

He had a huge staff of assistants, collaborators and direct executors. In the XIth c., however, we observe a gradual decrease in the significance of some of his powers and functions, as a result of which he ceased to be a higher magistrate and chairman of the imperial court, while the importance and functions of some of his subordinates increased and they steadily got free of his control to become chiefs of absolutely independent offices.

According to the analysis of some documents, in the second quarter of the XIth c., the jurisdiction of the eparchos was limited to the supervision of the handicraft articles and the crafts. His powers over the police, the administration and municipality were gradually restricted.

Lit. Успенский, Ф. Константинопольский эпарт.-ИРАИК, 4/2, 1899; Bury, *System*, 69-73; Brehier, *Institutions*, 186-192; Сюсюмов, М. Я. *Византийская книга эпарты*, Москва, 1962; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 319-320; Idem, *Evolution*, p.133; ODB, 705.

αα) ἑπαρχος

925. Ἀριστηνός ἑπαρχος (XI/XII c.)

Unknown place of preservation. Find-spot: uncertain. D.15-16 (?) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint but a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Мухомов, *Византийски печати*, № 34; Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 1036; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 56.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Numismatic Museum in Vienna no.350 (see Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 1036; Wassiliou, *Seibt*, no. 13).

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

+CKE | ΠΟΙCΕ | ΠΑΡΧΟ

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

ΑΡΙ. | ΤΗΝΟ. | ΧΕΜ.

+Σκέποις ἐπάρχου(ν) Ἀρι[σ]τηνὸ[ν] Χ(ριστ)έ μ[ου]

926. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἑπαρχος (X c.).

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 10. Found in the course of excavations of Grazhdanski Complex site in Preslav, Southeastern sector, square Ж4, at a depth of 0.70 m, on 16th August 1975. D. 22-23 (?) 2 mm. The bulla was bent during excavations; parts of the depiction and text were destroyed during its straightening and preparation for conservation.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Laurent, *Corpus*, II, no. 1015 (the specimen was struck with the same pair of dies and is from the DO Collection); Zacos, *Seals*, II, no 828 (the specimen was struck with a different pair of dies).

Obv. Bust of St. Anastasios, nimbate, bearded, facing; wears himation; hands before chest with palms turned outwards. Traces of a vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-A-N ||

A-C-T'. Remains of a circular inscription:.....CΩΔ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..Ω... | .R'A'CΠAΘ'Ε | ...OVXPVC | .ΤΡΙΚΛ'Κ'Ε | ΠΑΡ..

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ] σῷ δ[ούλ(ω) Ἰ]ω[άννη] β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐ[πὶ τ]οῦ χρυσ(ο)τρικ(λίνου) κ(αὶ) ἐπάρ[χ]ω]

The data are insufficient for any search in the narrative sources. The seal generally dates from the Xth c.

927. Φιλόθεος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἑπαρχος ἱμάτων ἐξωπρατείκων (X c.).

RHM-Shumen, no. 15232. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-22 (20) 3 mm. W. 7. 88 g. Well-centered and complete imprint, but some letters are effaced and cannot be deciphered with certainty.

Ed. Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 253.

Parallels: Further four specimens were found in Istanbul and Hersones. On them, see the survey presented below.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.12). Circular inscription along border of dots:

+ΦΙΛΟΘΕΩΡ'Α'CΠAΘ'SVΠ... .

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+I:M . | TINEE | ΩΠΡΑΤ | ION

+Κύριε βοήθει Φιλοθέω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) ὑπ[άρχ]ω] ἱμ[ά]τιν ἐξωπρατ(ε)ί[κ]ον

The seal was originally published without a commentary in compliance with the type of the publication in the Catalogue of Medieval Seals of the RHM, Shumen (Jordanov, *Zhekova*, no. 253).

Further two specimens of the same person are preserved in the collection of G. Zacos, II, but since they are poorly printed we cannot say whether they are from the same matrix as our specimen.

With the first one, the obverse is like ours but the reverse contains an inscription of five lines which could be a blurred text, but in any case it is an inscription of five lines, while our specimen has an inscription of four lines (Zacos, *Seals*, II, no.1082a).

The second specimen in Zacos collection II has an obverse like ours but the reverse is without an image and a text. G. Zacos assumes that it could be a ticket (counter) for some charity events organized by the eparchos (Zacos, *Seals*, no.1082b), but it is also possible that it was attached to cloth for which reason the reverse did not print. For a similar case, see one of the seals from Preslav (Йорданов, Преслав, № 367).

The other two specimens were found in the medieval Chersones and the Crimean peninsula.

The first one is preserved in the collection of K. D. Smjichkov from Lugansk. It was published with a drawing (see Сорочан Е. Б. *Византийский Херсон (вторая половина VI- первая половина X вв.)*. *Очерки истории и культуры*, част 2, Харьков, 2005, 1116-1117). Due to the poor condition of the specimen, the author could not decipher the owner's name and position but commented only on the inscription on the reverse.

The second one is preserved in the collection of Y. N. Smoilenko. It was originally

presented without deciphering of the name in the paper of N. Alexeenko from Sevastopol at the international conference in honour of the famous collector Dr. Vasil Haralanov held in Shumen in 2007. It was then that I draw his attention to the existence of our parallel. No publication in the collected volume ensued for reasons unknown to me. Later N. Alexeenko devoted to it a special publication in which he draws on all four specimens (Алексеевко, Н. А. Торговля и тканя и экспорт одежды в Византии по данным сфрагистики. - *Россия и мир: Панорама исторического развития. Сборник научных статей, посвященный 70-летию исторического факультета Уральского государственного университета имени А. М. Горького*, Екатеринбург, 2008, 174-178). I don't know why he missed the specimen published by Sorochan.

Another specimen bears the name of Philoteos eparchos, but it is different from the ones discussed here (see *Zacos Seals*, II, no. 274).

In our case in addition to eparchos, he is also ἱμάτιν ἐξωπρατείκων. What is the meaning of these positions?

No such combination of positions of the eparchos is known. At the lack of exact parallels no certain answer is possible.

According to the publisher of the first specimen from Chersones (Сорочан, 1116-1117) the position of this official himat(i)on exo pratik(i)ov means garments sold to foreigners or garments sold outside. According to him the preposition exo combined with the term pratik(i)ov leads to the conclusion that it refers to garments intended for use in the imperial palace for selling and presenting to foreigners and which were objects of the so-called "trade diplomacy". Thus the author explains the discovery of the seal in Chersones which was the fort post of Byzantium with the other foreign world.

According to the publisher of the second specimen from Chersones (Алексеевко, 174-178), the meaning of the position could be related with the term ἐξωπρατής, which means a trader from the province who served as a middleman between the Constantinopolitan traders and consumers outside the country, or with the term ἐξωπρασία with the meaning of a kind of a tax on foreign trade bargains. Combining the information from these two terms the author reached the conclusion that the seal under discussion has to do with the foreign trade of silk products that was carried out in the capital Constantinople under the control of the eparchos of the city.

In the introduction above, the conclusion was drawn that taking into consideration the rigid control over this kind of activity and the complete imperial monopoly, it is out of the question to speak of a traditional trade of this kind of articles. Indeed, some bargains with silk materials are mentioned in the book of the eparchos, but they are of lower quality and are not banned, thus it is possible that the position was really connected with the so-called "diplomatic trade" kept under the control of the eparchos of Constantinople. But why was this position inscribed only on the seals of this eparchos? It must be a case of some special kind of products whose production and import were controlled by the eparchos.

Thus the discovery in Preslav of the seal of Philoteos eparchos and ἱμάτιν ἐξωπρατείκων should be related with the receipt of silk garments and materials in Bulgaria and specifically in the Bulgarian capital. According to the instructions, the seal was either suspended from the bundle of silk products or was affixed to a letter of the eparchos to the Bulgarian authorities informing them for the sending of silk garments and materials.

The stamping of his correspondence with a seal on which the special position ἱμάτιν ἐξωπρατείκων was inscribed was in connection with a special occasion for this letter or the sent goods. For example, the sending to Bulgaria of ruler's attire for basileus! We know that

as a result of the peace of 913 Symeon was granted or acknowledged the title basileus. And we see the traditional costume and insignia of a legitimate Byzantine basileus on his seals of this period as a peacemaking basileus (Йорданов, Корнус, 46-48). Of course, the basileus's attire was not made in Bulgaria but was sent from Byzantium along with the conferment of the title.

Was it really the case? We can attempt an answer after determining when the seal was received in Preslav or its dating.

The invocative monogram on the obverse and the paleography of some letters and mostly the text of the seal point to a dating in the early Xth c. An eparchos by the same name is attested in this period.

In Theophanes Continuatus it is reported that in 913, after the death of Emperor Alexander, a revolt broke out headed by the domestikos of the Schools Constantine Doukas. After the suppression of the revolt many of Doukas's followers were sentenced by the eparchos Philoteos (*Theophanis Continuatus*, 384; *Продолжатель Феофана*, 160). Thus it is quite possible that the owner of the seal found in Preslav was identical to this Philoteos.

With what relations between Bulgaria, negotiations, agreements and treaties can he be related? Chronologically the nearest event is the negotiations and the eventual peace between Symeon and the regents in 913, when, according to the chronicler, 'honoured with countless and very big gifts, Symeon and his sons returned to their own country' (Leo Gramaticus, 160).

Gifts sent to Bulgaria and of course sealed with the eparchos's seal are mentioned in one of the letters of Patriarch Nicholas Mystikos to Symeon dated July-August 913 "...and that what is by custom sent to you from Roman Empire shall be sent as far as Develtos, and thence shall be carried into your dominion by your own servant, and this arrangement shall suffice and no other demand be made" (Nicholas, Letters, no. 6.31-34).

The Byzantine kommerkia Develtos was most probably meant here as the destination of the sent gifts and from there they were forwarded by the Bulgarian authorities to Symeon's court.

Many of the conclusions and assumptions drawn above are open to criticism but it is a fact that the correspondence of Philoteos eparchos and ἱμάτιν ἐξωπρατείκων was received in Preslav during the first decade of the Xth c. This correspondence must have been in connection with the Bulgarian-Byzantine relations which have various aspects.

The two bullae of the same Philoteos found in Chersones had probably the same function. It is a known fact that Chersones was the military and diplomatic fort post of the empire against the northern peoples. It may well be that Philoteos's letter to the authorities in Chersones was in connection with a similar diplomatic consignment to Kievan Rus or another of the empire's neighbouring countries.

928. N., β'σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ λογοθέτης τοῦ πρετορίου (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15086. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 82. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 21-23 (23) 3.1 mm. W. 8.60 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. One or two lines remained outside the blank.

E d. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 254

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with nimbus, himation and maphorion half-turned l. with hands open in front of her breast.

Rev. Inscription of six lines.

..... | .. ΑΘΑΡ' | ΑΝΔ' Σ | ΛΟΓΟΘΕ | Τ8.ΡΕ |

[+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ β'σπ]αθαρ(ο)[κ]ανδ(ι)[δ(άτῳ)] (καὶ)
λογοθέ(τη) τοῦ [π]ρε[τορ(ίου)]

ab) νομικός

Attested solely in the taktikon of Uspenskij (899) as one of the subordinates of the eparchos of Constantinople in jurisdiction. Nomikoi are often mentioned in an ecclesiastical context and also as scribes of books.

Lit. **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, Ph 113.16, p. 321; *ODB*, 1490.

929-930. Γρηγόριος σπαθαροκανδιῶτος καὶ νομικός (70s-80s of the X c.)

929. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 16998. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-25 (21) 3.5 mm. Good imprint, cracked along the channel.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 121.

930. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17592. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 12-24 (21) 2 mm. Half, struck over a seal of Leo Sarakinopoulos, strategos of Thrace and Ioanopolis (on him, see Jordanov, G. Names, no.35B.15 and here nos. 1250-1260).

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 122.

No parallels known.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. Gregory of Thamatourgos, bearded, dressed as a bishop, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Circular inscription along a border of dots:

..... ΡΙΩΘΘΑΜΑΤΟΥ'ΤΟ' : ['Ο ἄ(γιος) Γρηγό]ριω(ς) ὁ Θα(υ)ματου(ρ)γός(ς)

Rev. Inscription of four lines.

- . - | + ΓΡΙ . Ο | ΡΗΩC . Α . | ΑΡΟΚΑΝΔΔ' | SNO.I. | - + -

- . - | . . ΡΙΓΟ | . . . CΠΑΘ | . . . ΚΑΝΔΔ' | |

+Γριγορήῳ σπαθαροκανδ(ι)δ(άτῳ) (καὶ) νο[μ]ι[κ(ῶ)]

As in the previous publication, the reading of the last line on the reverse presents a problem. On the basis of the secure letters SNO..., I proposed the following restoration: (καὶ) νο[ταρ(ίῳ)]. The present proposition for restoration has been suggested to me by Prof. W. Seibt. If one wishes he could see traces of the last two letters IK'.

The seals of νομικός proved to be very rare. I am familiar with one of νομικός of Corinth (see *Corinth*, no. 2766).

ac) βουλλωτής τοῦ ἑπαρχου

Assistants of the eparchos. It was precisely them who sealed the goods with the eparchos' seal (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 321).

931. Παῦλος βουλλωτής τοῦ ἑπαρχου (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.180. Find-spot: Silistra. Purchased from Asen Nikolov in 1976. D. 22.5-23 (?) 3 mm. W.8.93 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. The letters are deformed and one should use much imagination as to decipher the text. Insecure reading mostly of line 3 containing the

name of the owner of the seal.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of five or six lines:

+ ΚΕ. | ΤΩC... | ΠΑ.... | ΡΟVΛ . . | ΕΠΑΡΧ | . .

+ Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σ[ῶ] δού(λῳ)] Παύλῳ] βουλ(λωτῆς) [τοῦ] ἑπαρχ(ου)

The owner of the seal was assistant of the eparchos. It was precisely them who sealed the goods with the eparchos' seal (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 321).

b) κοιαίστωρ

Successor of the former quaestor sacra palatii succeeding also his functions. The office was established by Justinian I in 539. He belonged to the class of judges and was totally independent from the eparchos. The quaestor presided over a court whose decisions could not be disputed before another except the imperial one. He dealt with forgery of documents, with wills, family rights, etc. Until the Xth c., the quaestor was one of the principal editors of the imperial novels. The office did not lose in significance even after the fall of Constantinople in 1204.

He had a staff of numerous assistants who were not attested by their seals.

Lit. **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 321-322; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, 605-606; *ODB*, 1765-1766.

932-933. Μιχαήλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κοιαίστωρ (X c.)

932. RHM-Shumen, no. 14955. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 25-27 (25) 3 mm. W. 13.12 g. Good but incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 255.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base up to the first arm. Remains of a circular inscription.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. . ΙΧΑΗΛ | . . CΠΑΘΑ | . . ΩΚΑΙΚV | .. CTΩP

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ(ῳ)Μ]ιχαήλ [β'(πρωτο)]σπαθα[ρί]ῳ καὶ
κυ[αί]στῳρ

933. RHM-Shumen, no. 14958/2. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 24-26 (21) 4 mm. W. 14.02 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation, although some letters did not print.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 256.

No parallels known.

The both specimens were struck by different bulloterions.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base up to the first arm.

Circular inscription along a border of dots : + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ CΩΔΟVΛ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ MIXA | HΛP'A'CPA | Θ'SKVAI. | .OPI
+K(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ(ω)Μιχαήλ β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καί)
κυαί[στ]ορι

934. [Βασίλειος] Πεκούλης κριτής καὶ κοιαίστωρ (XII c.)

Private collection (St. Bilik, Sofia). D. 22.5-23 (22) ? mm. W. 14.114 g. Good and complete imprint, but the last line of the obverse is obliterated.

Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 563.

No exact parallels.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+| TICΦPA | ΓICENΓPA | MACIΔEIKN | EΓE

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

KPITHN | ΠEKΘΛHN | KOIAICTΩPA | ΠPOΓPAΦEI

+ Τί σφραγίς ἐν γράμμασι δείκν[υσι] λέγε κριτὴν Πεκούλην κοιαίστωρα
προγράφει

935. N., N., βέστης, βεστάρχης καὶ κοιαίστωρ (second half of the XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 32082. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15-31 (28) 5 mm. Once good imprint, of which only a half has survived.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Basil facing, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription: .-.-A-CI || .-.-OC

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | | ΡΕCTHCΡΕC | TAPXH'SKO | AICTΩPO | .8Λ...

..... βέστης, βεστάρχη(ς) (καί) κοια(ί)στωρ ὁ .ουλ...

c) κριτής ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου or κριτής τοῦ βῆλου

The Escorial taktikon first distinguished two classes of judges: πρωτοσπαθάριοι καὶ κριταὶ τοῦ βῆλου (*Oikonomides, Listes*, S 273.15) and πρωτοσπαθάριοι καὶ κριταὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου (*Oikonomides, Listes*, S 273.19). The latter must surely be those who held their sessions at the hippodrome, which was covered as early as the IXth c. In the Xth c. they began to call him κριταὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου, until the superior class κριταὶ τοῦ βῆλου was formed. They were elected among κριταὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου. For such a promotion, according to Michael Psellos, the personal approval of the emperor was needed (see *Psellos, MB*, V, p. 206).

The name of κριταὶ τοῦ βῆλου derives from βῆλον – a curtain drawn up in Byzantine courts at the appearance of the jury before the audience. Hence, κριταὶ τοῦ βῆλου were those judges of the hippodrome who had the right to held sessions behind this curtain and were the elite of this largest capital court. Very often, both combined these duties with others

in similar central departments and in the province.

Lit. Oikonomides, Lites, 322-323; *Laurent, Corpus*, II, 438-439, 449; *ODB*, 1078.

936-938. Βασίλειος Μαῦρος πρόεδρος καὶ κριτής ἐπὶ τοῦ Ἱποδρόμου (last quarter, XI c.)

936. RHM-Yambol no 5463. Recovered at the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa. D. 14-19 (18) 3 mm. Fragment, about one half of the seal missing.

Ed. *Jordanov, Melnitsa*, no. 7; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no.427.

937. Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov, Elhovo). Findspot: stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo. D. 21-23 (18) 3 mm. Weak imprint, but in a good state of preservation.

Ed. *Jordanov, Melnitsa*, no. 8; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no.428.

938. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, but perhaps the same as of the above specimens. D. 20-20 mm. Good but incomplete imprint. A well-preserved bulla.

Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no.429.

The three specimens were struck with the same die.

Parallels: Two bullae struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the Malbott Collection (see *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 886).

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

a) . . . PA. | . . . ACIΔE | . . OEP8 | .. KPI | . . .

b) . CΦPA. | .CRACIΔE | ΠPOEP8 | .AIK . . | .OV

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) . ΠITO . | ΙΠΠIOΔP . | MOVTIO . | MAVP..

b) EΠITOY | ΙΠΠIOΔPO | MOVTIOY | MAVP..

[+] Σφρα[γίς] Βασιλεί(ου) προέδρου [κ]αὶ κρι[τ]οῦ ἐπὶ τοῦ Ἱποδρόμου τοῦ Μαυροῦ

939. Μαρνανὸς or Μαρινὸς β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κριτής ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17241. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-23 (19) 3 mm. Once a good imprint, now a portion chipped. Scratched between two of the rays are graffiti resembling T Λ or T Δ.

Ed. *Йорданов, Преслав*, № 139.

No parallels known.

Obv. Monogram: eight rays radiate from the central letter Θ each ending with a letter: R-C-IΕ-Λ-Ω-T-Ω-Δ-K: Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ. Circle of pellets within two borders of dots.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ MA.. | NΩP'A'CP | AΘ'SKPIT' | EΠITOY | ΙΠΠIOΔP'

Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Μα[ρια]νῶ β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καί) κριτ(ῆ) ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδ(ρόμου)

940. Χριστόφορος Τιμωνίτης κριτής τοῦ βῆλου (second half of the XI c.)

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna, no. 281). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15-32 (24) mm, W. 7.50 g. Half of what was once a low-quality imprint (especially the rev.).

Ed **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 720.

Parallels: More than eight specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in various collection round the world: the Hermitage (three specimens) see **Лихачев**, *Богоматери*, с. 125, № 4, табл. 31; Athens № 397a, see **Konstantopoulos**, no. 397a; **Stavrakos**, no. 260; DO. 55. 1. 3393, DO. 55. 1. 3394; Bruxelles, BN., Coll. Kimps, no. 67; ANS.Coll. Mabbott, no. 203, see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 828.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding the Christ Child at l. Inscription of vertical lines at l.:

MP-ΘV- HPO-HΘO-C = M(ή)τηρ Θ(εο)ῦ ἡ Βοηθός.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

....R'Θ' | ...ΦOP |8RH | ...TWTI | ...ITH | -.-

[+Θ(εοτό)κε] β(οή)θ(ει) [Χριστο]φόρ(ω) [κριτῇ τ]οῦ βή[λου] τῷ Τι[μων]ίτη

940A. Ἰωάννης Ῥαδηνὸς βεστάρχης καὶ κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου (third quarter of the XI century)

National Historical Museum Sofia, no. 13138. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 14-26 mm Half of what was once a good and complete imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, III, № 8; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 595.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

... RO | ... ITΩ | ... 8ΛΩ | ... NNH | . -

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

R.. | TAP ... | KPIT ... | RHA'... | Δ...

[+Θ(εοτό)κε] βο[ήθε]ι τῷ [σῶ δ]ούλω [Ἰωά]ννη β[εσ]τάρ[χη (καί)] κριτ[ῇ] τοῦ βήλ(ου) [τῷ Ρα]δ[ήνω]

d) δρουγγάριος τῆς βίγλης

Initially, a commander of the four corps of the tagmata to become in the XIth c. a higher magistrate presiding over a court. He was attested in the sources as early as the year 791. He was responsible for the security of the Palace; his troops guarded also the covered hippodrome - a site of courts. Initially, in his capacity as a chief of the guard, he participated in the imperial court on issues concerning security. His role in court increased in time and prevailed over the other functions, as a result of which he headed the jury when issues concerning security were discussed. It is difficult to say exactly when this transition from a military commander participating in military campaigns into a judge occurred. He was first mentioned as a judge in documents between 1030 and 1045, but, as Laurent hypothesized in his book (**Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, p. 465), these transformations must have been at hand as early as the beginning of the XIth c., for which reason he attributed the seals of δρουγγάριος τῆς βίγλης after the XIth c. to jurisdiction. However, that should not be considered a rule, since Symeon δρουγγάριος τῆς βίγλης under Constantine VIII (1025-1028) was a military man and commander (see **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, p. 573).

In the XIth c. and mostly in its second half, δρουγγάριος τῆς βίγλης occupied a very

high position in the magistracy often presiding over the imperial court. For these functions, the epithet μέγας was added to his position under Emperor Michael VII (1071-1078). His court revised decisions of some other courts.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, 60-62; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 563-587; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 331; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, p. 465; **Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, 133-134; *ODB*, 663.

The seals of δρουγγάριος τῆς βίγλης discovered in Bulgaria are from the period before his judicial functions prevailed, for which reason they have been included in the chapter about the army.

e) ἐπὶ τῶν κρίσεων

A college of judges established between 1043 and 1045. Its members belonged to the class of μεγάλοι δικασταί. Within the competence of this court were various clauses of the civil law, but it specialized in solving problems sent by provincial judges as well as to check whether their judgements were in compliance with the law. Copies of verdicts of the provincial courts were sent to this college.

The establishment of this new tribunal, which was not appellate, was prompted by the fact that in the mid- and second half of the XIth c. the post of the thematic judges became extremely important and profitable, for which reason it was frequently occupied by influential persons not in the legal profession.

There is evidence that this college was put in charge of the droungarios tes viglas under Michael VII (1071-78). As mentioned above, the importance of this dignitary increased precisely at this period and he was called μέγας δρουγγάριος.

It seems that Niketas Choniates was one of the last judges ἐπὶ τῶν κρίσεων.

Lit. **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, p. 473; **Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, p. 134.

941-944. Εὐθύμιος ἐπὶ τῶν κρίσεων (last quarter, XI c.)

941. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24822. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. D. 15.1-16.1 (14) 3 mm. W. 3.25 g.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zlati Viyvoda*, no. 7.

942. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24824. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. D. 13-20 (14) 3 mm. W. 4.43 g. One-third missing.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zlati Viyvoda*, no. 8.

943. RHM-Sliven, no. 69. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. Found in the course of excavations at the top of the citadel, in square 43, on 14th August 1992. D. 16-18 mm.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: **Лихачев**, *Ист.знач.*, с. 21, № 21; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 898; unpublished from Shaw 870 (no. 1422).

Obv. The Virgin standing, holding Christ (r. arm). Sigla: MP || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ CΦPA | ΓICTPA | ΦΩNTE | KPICEΩN | EVΘVMI | OV

+ Σφραγὶς γραφῶν τε κρίσεων Εὐθυμίου

944. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24823. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. D. 12-14 (11) 3 mm. W. 3.67 g.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans (no medallion of Christ visible). Sigla: $\overline{M} \parallel \overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΦΡΑΓ | ΓΡΑΦΩΝ | ΤΕΚΡΙCΕ | ΕΝΘΥΜΙ | 8
[+ Σ]φραγ(ις) γραφῶν τε κρίσε(ων) Εὐθυμίου

Despite differences in the manner in which the Virgin is represented, one could believe, on the basis of the similarity of iconography, name, title and the use of the same verse, that all of these seals belonged to the same owner.

The following groups of seals can be added to them:

a) Konstantopoulos, no. 959:

Obv. The Virgin standing as above.

Rev. +ΓΡΑΦ' | CΦΡΑΓΙΖ | SKΡΙCΕΙC | ΕΝΘΥΜΙ | ΟΥ

b) Unpublished from DO 47. 2. 870.

Obv. The Virgin standing, turned one-quarter to the left, holding Christ on her right arm.

Circular inscription along a border of dots: [Δ]έσποινα [μοι σφ]ράγιζε κ[ρί]σης [(καὶ) λόγ]ους

Rev.: +CΦΡΑ | ..ΓΡΑΦΩ' | ..ΚΡΙCΕ | ..ΕΝΘΥ | ΜΙΟΥ |

c) Unpublished from DO 47. 2. 871.

Obv. As above.

Rev. + CΦΡΑ | ΓΙCΓΡΑ | ΦΩΝΤΕ | ΚΡΙCΕΩΝ | ΕΝΘΥΜΙ | ΟΥ

Our Euthymios was a member of the college judges. On the basis of the iconography, internal evidence and the style of the epigraphy, the seals are to be dated to the second half (in fact, the last quarter) of the XIth century. At some point during this period Euthymios had to write at least four times to the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda.

To whom and on what occasion did Euthymios send his active correspondence? Not ruling out the private nature of his correspondence, it is more likely that it was sent officially regarding the decision of a certain case. The correspondence was addressed to a representative of the local administration located there, and why not to the local judge.

Γ) ἐξάκτωρ

As a term, it first appeared in the Escorial taktikon (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, S 271.14). In the period under discussion, it meant a lawyer participating in the imperial court and specialized, according to Laurent (**Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, p. 480), in cases regarding guardianship. In Michael Psellos' time, it was a high-ranking man of law (**Psellos**, *MB*, 5, p. 206.28). He is not mentioned in the written sources after the year 1204.

Lit. **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 325-326; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, p. 480.

945. Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵποδρόμου καὶ ἐξάκτωρ (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17507. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-21 (21) 2. 6 mm.

W. 8.67 g. Incomplete imprint. Both separate letters and whole lines are missing.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 140.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription: O-A-...-O || .. - K. -. Remains of the circular inscription: K....

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | ..CΠ... | ..ΠΙΤ8ΧC'T' | ..ΙΤΙ.ΠΙ. | Ι.ΠΟΔΡΜ. | . ΕΞΑΚΤ.

+ Κ(ύρι)[ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ(πρωτο)]σπ[αθ(α)ρ(ίω) [ἐ]πὶ τοῦ χρ(υσο)τρ(ι)[κ(λίνου) κρ]ιτι [ἐ]πὶ [τ(οῦ)] ἵ[π]ποδρόμ[ου (καὶ)] ἐξάκτ(ω)[ρ(ι)]

9. Indeterminate Departments

Presented below are seals of dignitaries who, according to the character of their functions, were assistants and not titulars in a given department, but since its name was not inscribed, they are impossible to be included in the above classification of departments from the central administration.

α) ἐκ προσώπου

The office is not well defined. It had representatives both in the central and provincial administrations. In the capital, some departments had ἐκ προσώπου, but others did not have one. Their seals obligatory state whose ἐκ προσώπου they were. In the province, the respective strategos of a theme was actually ἐκ προσώπου of the emperor, but along with that, there were themes or other administrative units, in which no strategos was appointed, but only ἐκ προσώπου.

All that gave grounds to Oikonomides to draw the conclusion that these were probably strategoi of a lower rank. That raises the question regarding the identity of the owners of the seals presented below. Whose ἐκ προσώπου were they? Whether of a given titular from the departments of the central administration or of strategoi of a lower rank, but without relating them with a definite toponym. Then their place is in the part with similar seals presented in chapter V.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, 46-47; **Ahrweiler**, *Recherches*, 38-39; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 342; *ODB*, 683.

946. Καλοκυρὸς Πηγονίτης σπαθαροκανδιδατος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14660 (?). Found by a treasure-hunter in the stronghold near the village of Dobri dol. D. 19.5-21.5 (19?) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint. Several letters remained outside the blank, and the rest are obliterated.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Dobri dol, no. 11; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 574.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). No inscription visible.

Rev. Inscription of six lines.

.ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ...ΟΚΥΡ' | .ΠΑΘ'Κ.ΔΔ' | .ΕΚΠΡΟCΠ | .8ΠΗΓΟ | ..ΤΗ
[+]Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) [Καλ]οκυρ(ῶ) [σ]παθ(αρο)κ[α(ν)]δ(ι)δ(ά)τ(ω)

[(καὶ)] ἐκ προσ(ώ)π(ου) [τ]οῦ Πηγο[(νί)τη]

947. Λέων σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna, no. 10. Find-spot: uncertain. D.17-19 (14) 4 mm. W.6 g. Off-centered but relatively complete imprint since the dies were small in diameter.
Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans, facing with medallion on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{M} || \overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | .ΠΑΘ'ΚΑΝ' | ΣΕΚΠΡ . | ..Π
+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντι [σ]παθ(αρο)καν(διδάτω) (καὶ)] ἐκ
πρ[οσώ]π(ου)

948-949. Νικόλαος Τορνίκης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (X c.)

948. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18069. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav.D. 24-25 (19) 3 mm. W. 9.20 g. Very good imprint in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 141, Jordanov, F. Names, no. 724.

949. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24571. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 13-21 (19) 2.1 mm. Half of what was once a very good imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 142; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 725.
Both specimens were struck with the same pair of dies.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base. Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔ.Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΝΙΚΟ | ΛΑΩΑ'CΠΑ | .ΣΕΚΑ'CΩ | Π'ΤΩΤΟΡ | ΝΙΚΗ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ[ού]λ(ω) Νικολάω (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω)] (καὶ) ἐκ
(προ)σώπ(ου) τῷ Τορνίκη

950. Ν., σπαθαροκουβικουλάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17010. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav.D. 22.5-25 (18) 2 mm. W. 9.20 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 143.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps with fleurons arising up to the second arm. Remains of a circular inscription: + Κ..... Δ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | .CΠΑΘΑ | Ρ'Κ8ΡΙΚ | 8Λ'ΣΕΚ | ΠΡΟC
+Κ(ύρι)[ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ] δούλ(ω)σπαθαρ(ο)κουβικουλ(αρίω) (καὶ) ἐκ
προσ(ώπου)

951. Ν., σπαθαροκανδίδατος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14177. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 24-26 (?) mm. W. 6.37 g. Incomplete imprint, whole lines and letters remained outside the blank. Only those of the channel swelling printed.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 260.
No known parallels.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas facing, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | .CΠΑ . . | . . ΝΔΔ . . | . . ΚΡΗ . . | . . ΚΠ. | CΩΠ.
..... σπα [θαρ(οκ(α)νδ(ι)δ(α)τος) [ἀση]κρῆ[τι(ς) (καὶ) ἐκ πρ[ο]σώπ[ου]

b) χαρτουλάριος / μέγας χαρτουλάριος

952-953. Εὐφύμιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας χαρτουλάριος ..(X-XI c.)

952. RHM-Silistra, no. 602. Find-spot: from the town. D. 26-28 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete and smeared imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 4.

953. RHM-Shumen, no. 14215. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 24-25 (22) 3.5 mm. W. 10.02 g. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 5.
The two specimens were struck in different boulloteria or pairs of dies.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion in front of her chest. Traces of a circular inscription: +ΤΩCΩΔ8'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) | + ΕΥΦ. | ΜΗΟΑ'CΠ. | .ΑΡΜ^ΓΧΑΡ | .ΛΑΡ'Τ8
b) | + ΕΥΦ. | ΜΗΟΑ'CΠ | ΑΘ'ΣΜ^Γ . . | Ρ'Τ8..
+[Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Εὐφ[η]μίο (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ)
με(ε)γ(άλω) χαρτουλάρίω

954. Λέων β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ μέγας χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, field no. 157. Found during excavations of the Ruler's Church in the Inner City of Preslav in the dumped soil on 25th July 2007. D. 15-22 (over 21) mm. Fragment smaller than a half of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons arising from the base up to the second bar. From circular inscription: ΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines

+ΛΕ . . | ΘΡ'Α' . . . | ΣΜΕ . . . | ΧΑ . . . | ΛΑ . . .
+[Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ] δούλ(ω) Λέ[ον]τ[η] β'(πρωτο)[σπαθ(αρίω)] (καὶ)
με[γάλω] χα[ρτου]λά[ριω]

954A. Νικήτας μέγας χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad [I 2009]). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-26 (20) 3 mm. W. 10.23 g.
Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of St. Niketas as a martyr. Vertical inscription: ☉ || N-H-K'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΝΙΚΗΤΑ | ΜΧΑΡΤ | ΛΑΡΙ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) | τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Νικήτα μ(ε)γ(άλῳ) χαρτ(ου)λάρ(ι)ῳ

955. Πολύευκτος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἱποδρόμου καὶ χαρτουλάριος τοῦ... (XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 52[1949]. Find-spot: the town. D. 30-32 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete and smeared imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 19.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of six lines:

.ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΩCΩΔ. | ΠΟΛ.ΕV. | Α'CΠΑΘ.. | ΕΠ'Τ8.. | ...ΚΛ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΚΡΙΤΗ | .Π'Τ8ΙΠΠ. | ..Μ'SXAP | ..Λ'Ρ'Τ8. |
[+] Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) | τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Πολ[υ]εύ[κ]τ(ω) |
(πρωτο)σπαθ[α]ρ(ίω) | ἐπ(ί) τοῦ [χρ]υσο[τρι]κλ(ίνου) κριτῇ [ἐ]π(ί) τοῦ
ἱπ(ο)[δ]ρόμ(ου) | (καὶ) χαρ[του]λ(ά)ρ(ι)ῳ τοῦ

956. Δημήτριος χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 12389/1. Former collection of Alexander Boev from Silistra. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-26 (19) 3 mm. W. 8.88 g. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 258.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕ.. | ΤΩCΩ.. | .ΗΜΗΤ.. | ΧΑΡ.. | Λ....
+ Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ [δ(ούλῳ) Δ]ημητ[ρ(ί)ῳ] χαρ[του]λ[ά]ρ(ι)ῳ

957. Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14961. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska – civil settlement. D. 20-22.5 (18) 3.1 mm. W. 9.82 g. Complete and well-centered imprint, but its reading is rendered difficult due to the unusual writing of some letters. About others we have no idea how to identify.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 259.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on four steps with fleurons rising from the base up to second transverse bar. Circular inscription along border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩΩΔΟV

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΡΕC | .ROVT | .οR'Α'CΠ | Θ'ΧΑΡΤ | ΟΛΑΡ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ (σ)ῷ δούλ(ῳ) . . . β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) χαρτο(υ)λάρ(ι)ῳ

958-962. Εὐστάθιος ὁστιάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

A. χαρτουλάριος

958. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17048. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D.24-25 (17) 2.5 mm. W. 7.90. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 144.

959. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D.22-23 (17) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 145.

960. Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1952. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-24 (18) 3 mm, W. 9.62 g. Well-centered and complete imprint. Holed at one side and probably used as a weight. Some letters are obliterated which renders the overall reading problematic.
Unpublished.
The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔΟV | ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΕV' | ΤΑΘΙΩ | ΧΑΡΤ8 | ΛΑΡ'
+ Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Εὐ(σ)ταθίῳ χαρτουλάρ(ι)ῳ

B. ὁστιάριος καὶ χαρτουλάριος

961. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna, no. 69. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-24 mm, W. 9.00 g. Well-centered and complete imprint. Certain letters, especially on the obverse, are damaged.
Unpublished.
No parallels known

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΘ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΕVCTA | .

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

ΟCΤΗΑ | ΡΗΩSΧΑ | ..8ΛΑΡ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Εὐστα[θ(ίω)] ὁστιαρήῳ (καὶ) χα[ρτ]ουλάρ(ι)ῳ

962. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17221. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-19 (18 ?) 3 mm. W. 7.30 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 146.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of an unknown saint as bishop. Circular inscription along a border of dots:
+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩ....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΕΥC. | . ΘΙΩΟC | ΤΙΑΡΙΩS | ΧΑΡΤΟV | Λ'

+ Κύριε βοήθι τῷ [σῶ δούλῳ] Εὐσ[τα]θίῳ ὁστιάριῳ (καὶ) χαρτουλ(άριῳ)

963. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀσηκρήτης καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

Private collection (N. Vasilev from Shumen). Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-23 (21) 3 mm. Very well centered and executed imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-NI || K-OΛ-A'. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' || ΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΩΝ | ΑCHKPH | TISXAP | Τ8Λ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Κων(σταντίνῳ) ἀσηκρήτι (καὶ)
χαρτουλ(άριῳ)

964. Μιχαήλ χαρτουλάριος (XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1851. Find-spot: Uncertain. D. 25-26 (20) 2.5-3 mm. W.10.15 g. Well-centered but indistinct imprint, especially the letters recording the saint's name.

Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas facing, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Traces of vertical inscription: Θ- . . . || K-O- ..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | . ΙΧΑΗΛ | ΧΑΡΤΟV | ΛΑΡΗΟ | - . -

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [Μ]ιχαήλ χαρτουλαρήο

c) ἐπισκεπτήτης

965. Ἰωάννης σπαθαροκανδῖδατος καὶ ἐπισκεπτήτης (X-XI c.)

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna, no. 45. Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Zlati Voyvoda, disc. of Sliven. D.19-20 (14) 4 mm. W.7.7 g. Imprint moved slightly to the top, but as a whole complete.

Unpublished.

Obv. Inscription of four lines.

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8 | Λ'ΙΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines.

CΠΑΘ' | Κ'ΔΔ'ΣΕ | ΠΙCΚΕ | ΠΤΙΤ' | - . -

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δού(λῳ) Ἰω(άννῃ)

σπαθ(αρο)κ(αν)δ(ι)δ(άτῳ) (καὶ) ἐπισκεπτίτ(η)

Chapter Three

OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS AT THE ARMY

Byzantine army in the IXth-Xth centuries was composed of two basic units:

1. Provincial, thematic army (θεματὰ), under the command of local startegoi;
2. Regular imperial army (τὰ βασιλικά τάγματα), garrisoned mainly in the capital or the neighboring provinces;

The tagmata was recruited of freelances, professionals, armed and equipped by the state and commanded by high-ranking officers.

In the period under discussion, it consisted of the following main corps: scholai, excubilai, arithmos and numerai.

Domestikos, drougarios or komes were at the head of these corps. There was a seniority among the commanders. The names, composition and functions of the corps changed with time. Below we will dwell upon those represented by their seals discovered in Bulgaria.

The analysis of various documentary sources indicates that the importance of the tagmata as a basic military force decreased in the XIth c. That was a process begun as early as the Xth c., when some corps were dispatched to garrison in the province and thus separated from the central army. A tendency is observed of increased recruiting of foreign mercenaries not included in the tagmata but in separate detachments each under the command of their fellow-countrymen and subordinate directly to the emperor.

Generally, the defense of the capital from a lesser danger, namely at peace, was left to the hetaireia, the army of the eparchos and the imperial fleet.

Lit. Bury, *System*, 47-49; Brehier, *Institutions*, 295-296; Ahrweiler, *Recherches*, 24-32; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 329-332; Idem, *Evolution*, 141-147.

1. Δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν

A commander of the major corps of the tagmata. Initially the scholai were charged with service in the imperial palace, where they stayed during the day and night. They had a special hall where they kept guard. They wore brilliant uniforms and their service had rather a ceremonial character. But in the course of time, they became a basic military unit which traditionally sent a guard of honor to the Palace.

The office of domestikos of the scholai had its evolution throughout the centuries.

The high-ranking civil officials or military commanders were in the habit of appointing a man of confidence outside the official staff, to whom they could transfer some of their heavy duties and who could act as a deputy when needed. This trusted person was called domestikos, i.e. servant or domestic in the West. The same name was adopted in the East and he gained wide currency in Byzantium as early as the VIth c. Initially he was a private person, a private advisor of the respective dignitary, but due to the confidence with which he was charged, he often influenced the official work of his patron.

Thus, the commander of the scholai also had his domestikos, who was not in the army

and who was supposed to have usually passed the orders of the general commander to the commanders of the respective subdivisions of the scholai. But since the time of Constantine V (740-775) we find him as a commander of the corps of the scholai and a close associate of the emperor.

Until the mid-Xth century, the supreme command of the army, in the absence of the emperor, was in the hands of the commander of the most important Constantinopolitan cavalry regiment (tagmata), the domestikos of the scholai. But under Emperor Romanos II (959-963), the command of the scholai, as well as the supreme command of the army, was divided: two domestikoi of the scholai are attested - of the East (τῆς Ἀνατολῆς) and of the West (τῆς Δύσεως); they were at the head of two separate tagmata. In the absence of a domestikos, these general functions could also be entrusted to a stratopedarches ("of the East", as well as "of the West"). This situation is reflected in the taktikon of Escorial.

First deputy of δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως was τοποτηρητής τῶν δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως.

During the first three quarters of the XIth century, the commanders of the major expeditionary forces were called, if not domestikoi, doukoi or katepanoi of the East or the West.

The same differentiation between East and West also occurred in other tagmata of the Empire, the exkubitoi, hikanatoi and others.

The tagmata of the scholai disappeared from the sources before 1082 as a consequence of the catastrophe at Mantzikert. After that, the definition "ton scholon" also disappeared from the seals of the domestikoi who were now qualified simply as "of the East" and "of the West" (see **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, 1-2 and bibl. quoted). The epithet μέγας appeared as if to compensate, like other offices of that time. Their office of commanders of the army forces of the Empire in the East, West or the whole Empire was preserved during the XIIth century as well.

Lit.: **Bury**, *System*, 49-57; **Brehier**, *Institutions*, 295-297; **Guilland**, *Domestique*, 1-13; **Ahrweiler**, *Recherches*, 24-36; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 329-330; **Idem**, *Evolution*, 142-143; **Kühn**, *Armee*, 135-146; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, 1-2; *ODB*, 647-648.

966. Βάρδας κουροπαλάτης καὶ δομέστικος (859-862)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 31449. No reported find-spot. According to its former owner from Ruse, the bulla generally originates from Northeastern Bulgaria. Well-centered but incomplete imprint. D. 23-23.5 mm.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Куропалати*, № 1.

No parallels known.

Obv. The patriarchal cross on a base of three steps. Inscription within a double border of dots beginning from above: + ΚΕΡ ΔΟΝΛΩ :+Κύριε β(οή)[θ(ει) τῷ σῶ] δοῦλω

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΒΑΡΔΑ | ΚΟΥΡΟΠΑΛΑ | Τ'ΣΔΟΜΕC | - Τ'-

+ Βάρδα κουροπαλάτ(η) (καὶ) δομεστ(ικῶ)

The dating of the seal, according to its iconography and paleography of some of the letters (for example a closed B) is until the mid-IXth c.

From this period, there is a known Byzantine dignitary bearing this title and position.

It is the renown Byzantine statesman Bardas, who in the years of the weak-willed Emperor Michael III (842-867) actually ruled the Empire (see *PMBZ*, no. 791).

Who was Bardas and what are the position and title inscribed on his seal?

Bardas was a brother of Empress Theodora, wife and later widow of Emperor Theophilos (829-842). The name of Bardas was first reported precisely during the reign of this emperor, when along with the military commander Theophobos they were sent on a military expedition to Abchasia (*Продолжатель Феофана*, 62.3-5). Before 842, Bardas held the rank of patrikios as the emperor's brother-in-law.

After the death of Emperor Theophilos, his three-year old son Michael III was enthroned, and as the custom in Byzantium, the Empire was ruled by a council of regency headed by the mother empress. The following participated in this council: one of the outstanding Byzantine statesmen magistros Theoktistos ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλείου and logothetes of the dromos (for him see no. 839); the empress's uncle magistros Manuel, an Armenian by origin; and the empress's brother and emperor's uncle patrikios Bardas (*Продолжатель Феофана*, c. 66.1).

The first main step of governing taken by the council of regency was the restoration of the icon warship. That was done with an imperial decree and, as typical with any change, had its following and opposition. Bardas was one of the active participants for the restoration of the icon warship (*Продолжатель Феофана*, c. 67.3.).

The next event, in which the name of Bardas was mentioned, was the plot for removing magistros Theoktistos. Bardas's position as an ordinary member of the council of regency did not satisfy him and he proceeded in action. The council of regency was actually headed by the wise and far-sighted Theoktistos, who skillfully steered the helm of government already before the council of regency was formed. Bardas aspired to take precisely his place. In 855, Theoktistos was accused of conspiracy and, although the accusations were not proven, he was slain by order of Bardas, who succeeded him in his capacity as ἐπὶ τοῦ κανικλείου (*Продолжатель Феофана*, c. 75.26). Soon after that (in 858), Empress Theodora was also removed and banished to a nunnery. Thus, Michael III remained a sole ruler under the full influence of Bardas. The latter was promoted to the rank of the magistroi and appointed to the office of domestikos. In 859, he was honored with the high rank of kouropalates and on April 26th 862 he was already a caesar and an all-powerful tyrant.

The assessments of Bardas's rulership have been contradictory due to his very personality. The victory over the Bulgarians, the signing of a peace treaty with them and the imposition of Christianity in Bulgaria are undoubtedly to his credit. The construction and opening of the higher school "Magnaúra" was again in the years of his reign. Along with that, he has been accused of cruelty and dissipation, which corresponds to the idea of Bardas we have. When assessing his personality, we should not forget that the sources about him are likewise biased. The main source, Theophanes Continuatus, was written by order of Constantine VII, a representative of the Macedonian dynasty, whose founder Basil I had seized the power precisely from Bardas.

On April 26th 866 Basil, the new favorite of the emperor and the future emperor, founder of a dynasty, organized a plot and Bardas was killed (**Guilland**, *R. Le domestique des scholes*, 21-22).

Therefore, Bardas must have held the positions kouropalates and domestikos inscribed on his seal from 859-862, to which period the present seal should be dated.

The question is how to comment the receipt of correspondence impressed with the seal of Bardas, kouropalates and domestikos, in modern northeastern Bulgaria. One could

not press for a particular event. However, it was the time of intensive offensive on the part of the Empire, whose final purpose was to force the Bulgarians to accept Christianity from Byzantium. This act was probably urged by military operations and demonstrations, in which connection the correspondence of the all-powerful uncle of the emperor could perhaps be received in Bulgaria.

967-991. Πέτρος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν θεοφυλάκτων σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (971-?).

A. β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν θεοφυλάκτων σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως

967. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21120. Found on the pavement in the eastern sector on 20th June 1984. D. 23-24 (22?) 2 mm. W. 5.00 g. Incomplete imprint. Chipped. Slightly waved.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 148; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Aa.

968. RHM-Shumen, no. 14220. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-26 (24 ?) 2 mm. W. 7.65 g. Low-quality imprint. The dies printed mostly in the center. Broken into two pieces.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 149; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Ab; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 261.

969. RHM-Shumen, no. 14224. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-25.5 (24 ?) 3 mm. W. 10.78 g. Low-quality imprint. Incomplete imprint. Almost one-third of the dies did not print.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 150; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Ac; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 262.

970. RHM-Shumen, no. 14219. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 26-28 (24 ?) 3 mm. W. 12.16 g. Low-quality incomplete imprint. 10 mm dislocation of the rev. and obv. dies.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 151; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Ad; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 263.

971. RHM-Shumen, no. 14899. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 26-28 (24 ?) 3 mm. W. 11.28 g. Low-quality imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 264.

972. RHM-Shumen, no. 15458. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23-27 (?) 3 mm. W. 11.18 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Unpublished.
All six specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Θ is represented in the middle. Four short and four long radial rays come out of it. The short ones end with a sphere and on top of the long ones are written letters which, if joined, provide the beginning of the invocation: KVPIER'Θ'. In the fields formed between the four long rays we read: TΩ-CΩ || ΔΩ-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΠΕΤΡΟ | Α'ΣΠΑΘ'Σ | ΔΟΜΕΣΤ'ΤΟ | ΝΘΕΟΦ'ΣΚΟ | Λ'ΤΙCΑΝ | CΕ'
+Κύριε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Πέτρῳ [β'] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) καὶ
δομεστ(ίκῳ) τον θεοφ(υλάκτων) σκολ(ῶν) τις Δύσε(ως)

B. πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν θεοφυλάκτων σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως.

973. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18501. Discovered during excavations in the area of the Strategia in sq. 173/135, 13th May 1980. D. 26-26 (22?) 3 mm. W. 11.11 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 152; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Ba.

974. RHM-Shumen, no. 14221. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Found in Preslav but it is not certain whether the area of the stratega was concerned. D. 23-25 (?) 3 mm. W. 10.36 g. Incomplete imprint as above. It was additionally holed in the middle and was probably used as a weight.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 153; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Bb; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 265.

975. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 20784. Discovered during excavations of the Palace, southern sector, sq. 161/76, depth 0.40 m. D. 29-29 (25) 2.5 mm. It was a successful imprint in the past but now the bulla is attacked by corrosion and there is a missing piece at one end.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 154; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Bc;

976. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 24774. Discovered during excavations of the Palace, southern sector, sq. 161/214, depth 0.80 m, 20th September 1985. D. 17-25 (?) 2.5 mm. It was a good imprint in the past but now almost half of it is missing. It was broken along the line of the channel.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Bd;

977. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 24798. Discovered during excavations of the Palace, southern sector, sq. 161/84, depth 0.80 m, 25th September 1985. D. 24-29 (22?) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint. Whole fields of the dies have not been imprinted.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Be;

978. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 26457. Discovered during excavations of the Palace, southern sector, sq. 161 /235, depth 0.40 m, 7th September 1987. D. 27-28 (23) 2.5 mm. An incomplete imprint as well. The bulla itself has a well preserved blank and surface.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Bf;

979. Private collection (J. Bjulbjulev from Haskovo). Legend has it that the seals of this collection come from Silistra but it is not impossible that they are connected with Preslav because they have been repurchased. D. 23-26 (22) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Bg;

980. As above. D. 23-25 (?) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint but well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1Bh;

981. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 247. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24 mm. W. 11.32 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. Dented. The restoration of the text is on the basis of the published specimens.
Unpublished.

982. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, field no. 549. Found in northern soil dump during excavations in the Ruler's Church in the Inner city of Preslav on 4th August 2006. D. 15-25 (?) 3 mm. W. 5.92 g. A half preserved. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation from which hardly anything could be read if there were no parallels available.
Unpublished.
The ten copies were imprinted with the same pair of dies.
No parallels known.

Obv. Θ is represented in the middle. Four short and four long radial rays come out of it. On top of the short ones are the letters ΠΕΤΟ which, if combined, provide the name Πέτ(ρ)ο. At the same distance from the centre a knot is engraved on the long rays. If invisibly connected, these knots form an internal circle together with the ends of the short rays. Starting from the upper centre (12 o'clock), the following letters are written on top of the long rays and above the letters of the internal circle: KERT ΩCOΔ'.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΠΑΤΡΙ | Κ'ΣΔΟΜΕ'Τ' | ΤΟΘΕΟΦΥΛΑ | ΚΤ'ΣΚΟΛ' | ΤΙCΑΝCΕ'

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σο δ(ούλῳ) Πέτ(ρ)ο πατρικ(ίῳ καὶ) δομε(σ)τ(ίκῳ)
το(ν) θεοφυλάκτ(ων) σκολ(ῶν) τις Δύσε(ως)

C. πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως.

983-985. Find-spot: strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 155-157; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1C a-c.;

986. RHM-Dobrich: Discovered in the medieval fortress near the village of Odurtsi. D. 26-27 (24) 3 mm.
The imprint was not well centered and is incomplete but, compared to those above, it is much more successful.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1C d.

987-989. Private collections. I checked them in various collections before they were resold. The information about their origin is uncertain but probably Preslav is involved. Their state of preservation is different and their size is closer to these above.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.1C e-g.

The seven copies have been imprinted with the same pair of dies.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines preceded and followed by an ornament:

|+ΚΕΡΟ | . ΘΕΙΤΩ | . ΩΔΟΝΑ | ΩΠΙΕΤΡ'|

Rev. Inscription of five lines preceded and followed by an ornament:

| ΠΑΤΡΗ | ΚΙΩΚΑΙΔ | ΟΜΕΣΤΙΚΩ | ΤΩΝΧΟ | Λ'ΔΝΥΣΕ'|

+Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θει τῷ [σ]ῷ δούλῳ Πέτρῳ πατρικ(ίῳ) καὶ δομεστίκῳ τῶν
σχολ(ῶν) (τῆς) Δύσε(ως)

990-991. N., πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν θεοφυλάκτων σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως
(X c.)

990. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.19203. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-26 (25?) 3 mm. W. 10.65 g. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller than the seal.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 158; Jordanov, G. Names, 26. 2.

991. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.. Found in the course of excavations in the Strategia of Preslav supervised by T. Mihailova in a ditch in the southern sector, square 18, on 18th July 2008. D. 24-28 mm. Specimen broken in two in a poor state of preservation. Off-center.

Unpublished.

991A. [see 3183] Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found during excavations of the Ruler's Church in the Inner City of Preslav, sector 162, square 32, depth 0.10 m, from the level of the pavement, on 18th July 2008, field number 17. Fragment smaller than a half.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Between its upper arms there is part of the invocation:

IC-X. || ... Along border of dots part of circular inscription: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕ

Rev. Inscription of five lines, of which the first one is outside the blank:

+ΠΑΤΡΙ | Κ'ΣΔΟΜΕ'Τ' | ΤΟΘΕΟΦΥΛΑ | ΚΤ'ΣΚΟΛ' | ΤΙΣΔΥΣΕ'

990. | Κ'ΣΔΟΜΕ . | ΤΟΘΕΟΦ . . . | . Τ'C . . Λ' | Τ . . . VCEOC

991. | . 'S . OMΕ . | ΟΦV . . . | . Τ'C . . Λ' | Τ . . . VCE . .

+Κ(ύρι)ε [βοή]θ(ει) [τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] N., [πατρικ(ίῳ καὶ) δομε(σ)τ(ίκῳ)] τὸ(ν)
θεοφ[υλάκ]τ(ων) σ[κο]λ(ῶν) τ(ις) [Δ]ύσεος

The name Peter is not sufficient to identify this domestikos of the western schools. In my previous publication I assumed that he is identical to the eunuch and stratopedarchos, patrikios Peter, known from the sources (see (Jordanov, Domestiques, I, 1-4) who took active part in the military campaign in eastern Bulgaria. The only contradiction is that the rank of domestikos was not open to eunuchs (see Cheynet, Les Phokas, p. 306; ODB, 1966-1967).

Anyway, this Peter arrived here with the rank of imperial protospatharios and later was promoted to the rank of patrikios. The discovery in Preslav of at least 25 of his lead seals attests to his active correspondence with an individual sojourning in Preslav about the coordination of hostilities, etc.

992-993. Στέφανος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς
Δύσεως (?-17.08.986)

992. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18997. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-24 (23?) 2.5 mm. D. 6.35 g. Incomplete imprint, part of the dies have remained outside the blank. The reverse of the surviving bulla is better preserved but the obverse has been destroyed by corrosion.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 159; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.3a.

993. RHM-Shumen, no. 13585. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: strategia of Preslav. D.11-24 3 mm. W. 2.67 g. About half of the bulla has survived.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, №160; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.3b; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 266.

No parallels known.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. Procopius holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Π-Ο || Κ-Ω-ΠΙ-Ο' Remains of a circular inscription: ...RΘ.... Δ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a) . ΤΕΦ.. | . ΝΘV.Π. | ΤΡΙΚ.Δ. | ΜΕC.ΤΟ. | CΚΟΛ'ΤΙ | ΔVС

b) CΤ. . . . | AN. | TP. | ΜΕC | CΚΟ . . . | . . .

[+Κ(ύρι)ε] βο[ή]θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Στεφ[άν(ῳ)] ἀνθυ[π(άτῳ)] π[α]τρικ(ίῳ)
[(καὶ)] δ[ο]μεσ[τίκ(ῳ)] τὸ[ν] σκολ(ῶν) τῆς Δύσε(ως)

The publication quoted above made the suggestion that the owner of the seals presented could be identified with Stephanos Kontostephanos who until 18th August 986 was δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (see Skylitzes, 331.33).

994-996. Λέων Μελισσηνός μάγιστρος, ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος
τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (17. 08. 986-?)

A. ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως

994. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17211. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 13.5-22 (23 ?) 3 mm. Half of an incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller than the dies.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.4a; Jordanov, Family Names, no.459.

995. RHM-Shumen, no. 13635. Purchased from Nedjalko Mihalev from Shumen. Find-spot: Silistra. D.18-29 (25) 3 mm. W. 5.51 g. About half of what was once a good imprint. It is not the other half of the former bulla.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, 26.4b; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 460; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 267.
No parallels known.
Although both copies have survived in halves, they have been imprinted with an identical couple of dies. Their comparison led to the following reconstructed text.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ. | ΗΘΙΤΩCΩ | Δ'ΑΕΟΝΤ. | ΑΝ.ΥΠ. | ..

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..ΤΡΙ | .ΣΔΟΜΕ | CΤΙΚ'ΤΩNC | ΧΟΛ'ΤΗCΔVC | ΤΟΜΕ..CIN.

+Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ο]ήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Λέοντ[ι] ἀν[θ]υπ[άτ]ρω πα[τρι]κ[ί]ῳ (καὶ) δομεστίκ(ῳ) τῶν σχολ(ῶν) τῆς Δύσ(εως) το Με[λι]σιν[ῶ]

B. μάγιστρος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως

996. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17093. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D.30-33 (25) 3 mm. D. 14.75 g. The imprint is not very successful. The last letters of the die are missing. The bulla is split and almost cut in half along the line of the channel.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 162; Jordanov, G. Names, 26.4B; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 461.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines preceded and followed by ornaments:

- ∴ - | +ΚΥΡΙΕ | ΡΟΗ ΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔΟΝΑ. | .ΕΟΝΤ. | - ∴ -

Rev. Inscription of five lines preceded and followed by ornaments:

- ∴ - | ΜΑΓΙC | .ΡΩCΔΩΜ' | .ΩNCΧΟΛ'Τ' | .C' | ΤΩΜΕ | .ΙCΗ.Ω | - ∴ -

+Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ[ῳ] Λέοντ[ι] μαγίσ[τ]ρω (καὶ) δωμ(εστίκῳ) [τ]ῶν σχολ(ῶν) [τῆ]ς Δύσ(εως) τῷ Με[λι]ση[v]ῳ

997-999. Νικηφόρος μάγιστρος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν (1000)

997. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 15029. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 25-30 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the dies remained out of the blank.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 14.

998. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17574. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-25 (over 24) 3 mm. W. 8.75 g. Incomplete imprint and bulla in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 163.

999. Private collection. Find-spot: Northeastern Bulgaria. D.25-25 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the dies remained out of the blank.
Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 863; Auktion Kunker 25, 29.09.- 01.10.1993, no. 563 and unpublished in DO. 58. 106. 1403.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ on her l. arm. Sigla: \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$. Circular inscription along a border of dots: +ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a) + ΝΙΚΗ | ΦΟΡ'ΜΑΓΙC | ΤΡΩΚΑΙΔ. | ΜΕCΤΙΚ. | ΤΩNCΧΟ | ...

b) | . ΟΡ'Μ. | . ΩΚΑΙΔΟ | . ΕCΤΙΚΩ | . ΩNCΧΟ | ΛΩΝ

c) + ΝΙΚ. | . ΟΡ'ΜΑΓΙ. | . ΩΚΑΙΔ. | ΜΕCΤΙΚ. | CΧΟ | ...

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Νικηφόρ(ῳ) μαγίστρῳ (καὶ) δομεστίκῳ τῶν σχολῶν

In my publications cited above, an attempt was made for identification of the owner of the seal affixed to his correspondence to Preslav and Dristra with Nikephoros Ouranos known from various sources.

Recently, a bulla from the collection of Fogg A. M. no. 1576 was published, bearing also the sobriquet Οὐρανὸς in his capacity as μάγιστρος καὶ κρατοῦντες τῆς Ἀνατολῆς (see McGeer, E. Tradition and Reality in the Taktika of Nikephoros Ouranos.- *DOP*, 45, 1991, p. 139; Nesbitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, 3, no. 99.11). Obviously, there is no need to reconsider the data from the seals, on which the sobriquet Ouranos is missing.

1000. Λέων Περηνός μάγιστρος καὶ δοῦξ πάσης Δύσεως (third quarter, XIth c.)

Preserved in Romania [MIRSR, 48/41]. Before that it was part of the Papahagi collection. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 25-25 mm. A badly preserved specimen covered with lead oxide. The lower end of the obverse is heavily damaged or seems to have been retouched on the photograph.
Ed. Barnea, Durostorum, no. 6; Barnea, I., Seibt, N. Byzantinische Bleisiegel aus Rumänien eine Nachlese zu Stücken mit Familiennamen, JÖB, 49, 1999, 92-93, no. 4; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 26.5.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion before her.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

Zacos, III, 1586 and 1706

+ ΚΕΡΟΗ | ΘΕΙΛΕΟΝΤ' | ΜΑΓΙCΤΡΩ | ΚΑΙΔΟΝΚ | ΠΑCΗCΔ'C | ΤΩΠΕΡΗ|-Ν'-

+ΚΕΡΟΗ | ΘΕΙΛΕΟΝ | ΜΑΓΙCΤΡΩ | .ΑΙΔΟΝΚ | .ΑCΗC. . | . ΩΠΕΡ. |-.-

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει Λέοντ[ι] μαγίστρῳ [κ]αὶ δουκ(ὶ) [π]άσης [Δ(ύ)σ(εως) τ]ῷ Περ[ηνῶ]

1001. Νικηφόρος Βατάτζης. μάγιστρος βέστης καὶ δοῦξ πάσης Δύσεως (1060s-1070s)

Private collection (V. Pantaleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-25 mm, W. 19.00 g. Once a good imprint. Currently holed in the center, presumably used as a weight of a spindle.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 97

Parallels: Fogg A. M. no. 1300, see Nebitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, 1, no. 1.21. struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ -.. || Μ-Η-ΤΡ' : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) [Δη]μήτρ(ιος).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- . - | ΑΓΙΕΔΗ | ΜΗΤΡΙΕΡ'Θ' | ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΩ | ΜΑΓΙΣΤΡΩ | ΡΕCΤ . . . ΚΙ | ΠΑ
. . . ΔV | CΕΩΤΩΡΑ | ΤΑΖΗ
+ Ἁγίε Δημητρίε βοή(ει) Νικηφόρῳ μαγίστρῳ βέστ(η) [καὶ] δου]κὶ πά[σης]
Δύσεω(ς) τῷ Βατά(τ)ζη

1002-1012. Ἀλέξιος Κομνηνὸς σεβαστὸς καὶ μέγας δομέστικος (1078-1081)

A.

1002. RHM-Stara Zagora, no. 10C3-3. Find-spot: the town. D. 23-25 (over 25) 5 mm. Perhaps once a good imprint, but now only partially preserved. The surface of the bulla is damaged.

Ed. Йорданов, Берое, № 1; Jordanov, Family Name, no.327.

1003. RHM-Sliven, no. 3882. Found in the course of excavations in the fortress near the village of Zlati Voyvoda, square 25 A, on the slope under the citadel on August 14, 1992. D. 26-30(?) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Name, no.328.

1004. Private collection (Ivan Iotov from Iambol). Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 29-29 (25?) 3 mm. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Name, no.329.

1005. Private collection (Valentin Zhekov from Novi Pazar). According to him, it was found in the course of excavations on Tsarevets (V. Turnovo). D.28-29 mm.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no.330.

The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: A specimen struck in the same boulloterion was offered at the auctions: Münzenstrum, 74, 11-13.11. 1992, no 1231; Auktion Hirsch (München), 186, 10-12. 05.1995, no. 1638.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a round shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: O-A-ΓΙ-O-C || Δ-Η-ΜΗ-ΤΡ-ΙΟ'

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

- + - | ΚΕΡΟΗΘ | ΤΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ | ΑΛΕΞΙΩCΕΡΑ | CΤΩΚΑΙΜΕΓΑ |
ΛΩΔΟΜΕCΤΙ | ΚΩΤΩΚΟ | ΜΝΗΝΩ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἀλεξίῳ σεβαστῷ καὶ μεγάλῳ δομέστικῳ τῷ
Κομνηνῷ

B.

1006. Archaeological Museum Veliki Preslav, no. 17242. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-27 (26) 4.1 mm. W. 15.74 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 164; Jordanov, Family Name, no.331.

1007. Archaeological Museum Veliki Preslav, no. 24563. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 28-29 (27.5) 5 mm. W. 23.60 g. Incomplete imprint, damaged during excavations.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, №165; Jordanov, Family Name, no.332.

1008. Private collection. Preserved in Academician Ivan Duichev's collection in Sofia. Find-spot: Stara Zagora region. D. 28-31 (26) 4.7 mm. W. 26 g. Low-quality imprint. There is 4-5 cm dislocation between the obv. and rev.

Ed. Йорданов, Алексей Комнин, № 3; Jordanov, Family Name, no.333.

1009. Archaeological Museum, Sofia. no. 45. Find-spot: the Aitos spa. D. 28-29 (26) 5 mm. W. 23.29 g.

Incomplete imprint. Either the boulloterion was out of order or the blank was not well centered in it; as a result the imprint on the obv. and rev. is slightly up-centered, leaving out parts of the depiction and inscription.

Ed. Йорданов, Алексей Комнин, № 4; Jordanov, Family Name, no.334.

1010. Private collection (Ivan Iotov from Yambol). Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 27-28(?) 4 mm.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Name, no.335.

1011. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 32-29 (26) 4 mm. W. 23.40 g. Dented by a strike with a sharp object.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Name, no.336.

1012. Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1903. Find-spot: uncertain. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. D. 32-30 (28-29 ?) 5 mm. Once a complete imprint. Now a quarter cut most probably by the finder (a treasure hunter) with a detector and an adze ?

Unpublished.

The ten specimens were struck with different pairs of dies.

Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 640, no. 5; Konstantopoulos, no. 496; Zacos, Seals, I, no.2707; Laurent, Corpus, II, no. 935.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand on a round shield, resting on the ground. Obv. St. Demetrios facing, represented as a warrior as above. The vertical inscription Ὁ ἅγιος Δημήτριος is of diverse letter combinations.

Rev. Inscription of six lines preceded and followed by ornaments:

+| CΕRACTON | ΗΔΗCΔΟΜΕC | ΤΙΚΟΝΜΑΛΕΞΙ | ΟΝΝVNTONKO |
ΜΝΗΝΟΝΔΕΙ | ΚΝVΩ
1012. .| TON | . . . ΔΟΜΕC | ΤΙΚΟΝΜΑΛΕΞΙ | ΟΝΝVNTONKO |
ΜΝΗΝΟΝΔΕΙ | ΚΝVΩ
+ Σεβαστὸν ἤδη καὶ δομέστικον μέγαν Ἀλέξιον νῦν τὸν Κομνηνὸν δεικνύω

The bullae of Alexios Komnenos in his capacity as a megas domestikos, prior to his becoming emperor, found in various settlements are further evidence for his active work in these lands, corroborated by the other narrative sources.

1013. Ἀλέξιος Κωντοστεφάνος μέγας δοῦξ ? (XII c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna, no.). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-42 mm. A half broken in two of what was once a good imprint. Holed in the upper side probably suspended as an icon. The restoration offered below is on the basis of the preserved data with a modicum of imagination.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a standing figure of a military saint and the inscription: O-A-ΓΕ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- o - | ΤΑC | ΑΛΕΞΙ8 | VΓΕ. . . | . . . ΟΝΔΟ | . . CΤΙΚ8 | - o -
[+Σφραγὶς] τὰς [γραφὰς] Ἀλεξίου Κοντο]στε[φάνου μεγάλ]ου δο[με]στίκου

With the uncertainty in the reading any commentary on the person of Alexios Kontostephanos will be superfluous.

1014. Φιλάρετος Βραχάμιος πρωτοσέβαστος καὶ δομέστικος Ἐώας (?-1084)

Private collection (G. Gulubov, Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-27.5 (over 27) 3.5 mm. Incomplete imprint.

The relief of the letters is erased.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 31.1; **Jordanov, Family Names**, no. 127.

Parallels: *Seyrig*, no. 192; **Cheyne, Zacos, III**, nos. 124-126. The last three seals are imprinted with a different bulloterion.

Obv. St. Theodore standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield placed on the ground.

Rev. Metrical inscription of seven lines:

..... | .IKONEΩA. | AΘΛHTCKEΠ | OICΠPOTON.. | PACTΩNΦI | APETON |

RPAXAM

[Δομέστ]ικον Ἐώα[ς] ἀθλήτ(α) σκέποις πρωτον[σε]βαστῶν Φιλάρετον

Βραχάμ(ην)

1015-1016. Ἀδριανός Κομνηνός πρωτοσέβαστος καὶ μέγας δομέστικος πάσης Δύσεως (1087-1105)

1015. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28682. Find-spot: Kazanluk, according to the available information. D. 19-33 mm. About half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 26.6a; **Jordanov, Family Names**, no. 325.

1016. Private collection (Valentin Dimitrov from Haskovo). Find-spot: on the land of the village of Tsareva Poliana, Haskovo region. D. 34-35 mm. Well-centered and complete imprint but surface covered with lead oxides.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 26.6b; **Jordanov, Family Names**, no. 326.

Parallels: **Schlumberger, Sig.**, p. 639, no. 4; **Konstantopoulos**, no. 337-338; **Zacos, Seals**, I, no. 2709; **Laurent, Corpus**, II, nos. 939-940; **Barnea, RESEE**, XXIII, 1, 1985, 29-32, no. 1; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS**, I, no. 1.13 a-c; **Lanz Auktion**, 64, 07.06. 1993, no. 1040. As far as one can compare the illustrations of these publications with our specimen, it belongs to a different boulloterion or another pair of dies.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a round shield set on the ground. Inscription in two columns:.....|| ΓΕ-ΩΡ-ΓΙ-Ο-С

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+KER'. | TΩCΩΔON.. | AΔPIANΩ... | ACTΩSM̄.... | ...KΩΠ.... | |

+K(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δού[λω] Ἀδριανῷ [(πρωτο)σεβ]αστῷ (καὶ)

μ(ε)γ(άλω) [δομέστι]κω π[άσης Δύσεως τῷ Κομνηνῷ]

1017-1018. Ἰωάννης σεβαστός καὶ μέγας δομέστικος πάσης Ἀνατολῆς καὶ Δύσεως (first half, XIIth c.)

1017. Private possession. It was offered for purchase to the Archaeological Museum in Burgas and my colleague Karayotov sent me a cast. It was found in the vicinity of the village of Rouen, Burgas region. D. 38-40(30) mm. A magnificent imprint. Its upper part was holed and it was probably worn as an icon.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 71.

No exactly parallels

1018. RHM-Stara Zagora. Found during the 2006 archaeological excavations of the part of late Roman and medieval layers of Augusta Trayana –Beroe (modern Stara Zagora). D. 39-40 (32) mm. D. 23.00 g. Incomplete imprint. Only some parts of the dies printed.

Ed. **Минкова, М.** Нов оловен печат на Йоан севаст и велик domestik на Изтока и Запада (XII век) открит в Берое.- *Сто години от рождението на д-р Васил Хараланов (1907-2007)*, Шумен, 2008, 147-151.

Parallels: **Laurent, Corpus**, II, no. 942; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS**, 3, nos. 99.8a-b.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns Θ-Δ-Η-ΜΗ || T-PI-OC

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

1017. ΙΩCΕ | RAΨOCKAI | ΜΕΓACΔOMΕ | ΨIKOCΠACHC | ANATOLHC |

KAIΔNCE | ΩC

1018. +ΙΩCΕ | . AΨOCKAI | . ΕΓACΔO | .. ΨIKOC | .. CHCANA | . OΛHCKA .

| ΔNCEOC

Ἰω(άννης) σεβαστός καὶ μέγας δομέστικος πάσης Ἀνατολῆς καὶ Δύσεως

Ἰω(άννης) σε[β]αστός καὶ [μ]έγας δο[μέ]στικος [πά]σης Ἀνα[τ]ολῆς κα[ὶ]

Δύσεος

The discovery of the second seal in Stara Zagora (medieval Beroe) corroborates the assumption about the owner's identification. The seals illustrate the activities of the Byzantine authorities and armies in this part of the country in the second quarter of the XIIth c.

1019. Ἰωάννης σεβαστός καὶ μέγας δομέστικος πάσης Ἀνατολῆς (first half, XIIth c.)

Private collection. A photo of it was sent to me by my colleague Valeri Yotov from the RHM-Dobrich on 17th September 1996. According to him, the original was unusual and as if made from a white metal (argyrobull?). It was offered for purchase but a deal was never struck. Even if it is a copy of an original seal, it copies one unknown.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 7.2.

Obv. A full-length figure of a saint without a nimbus or a ruler, caesar with ruler's insignia (he has a diadem or caesar's crown on his head and he is dressed in a divitision which is girded with a loros). In his right hand he holds an globus with a cross and supports his left hand on a long labarum. An inscription on the left has not survived but the one on the right is in vertical lines: ΘΕ-ΟΔ-ΡΟС- C. If the figure belonged to a saint, the left inscription would have been O-A-Γ-I-O-C.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.ΙΩ. | ..ΑΓOCKA. | ΜΕΓACΔOMΕ | CΓKOCΓACC | A.ATOA. | ..ON

[+] Ἰω(άννης) [σεβ]αστός κα[ὶ] μέγας δομέστ(ι)κος πάσ(η)ς Ἀ[ν]ατολ[ικ]ὸν

The inscription and the text are unusual. Often the letter Γ seems to substitute Ψ, sometimes Π and perhaps T. The unusual image on the reverse left aside, I would accept that this is a seal of an ordinary sebastos and grand domestikos of the East whose seal was made in a provincial studio and perhaps refers to the one represented above.

1019A. Ἀλέξιος Γίδος σεβαστὸς καὶ μέγας δομέστικος τῆς Δύσεως (end of the XII c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-33 mm, W. 8.2 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 131.

Parallels : Fogg A. M., no. 490, see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 944; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, 1.14.

Obv. Part from the figure of St. George and vertical inscription:|| ΓΕ-WP-ΓΙ-O-C :
[ἄγιος] Γεώργιος

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+| CΦΡΑ... | ΜΕΓΑΛ... | CWECΔ..... | Κ8:Γ..... | 98..... | | ..

+Σφρα[γίς] μεγάλ[ου Δύ]σεως δ[ομεστί]κου: Γ[ίδου σεβα]στοῦ [τῶν γραφῶν
Ἀλεξίου]

a) τοποτηρητὴς τῶν σχολῶν

1020. Μιχαήλ Κορδίλης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς τῶν σχολῶν (XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no.51. Find-spot: the town. D. 23.5-25 (18) 2.1 mm. Incomplete imprint, a well-preserved bulla despite a missing fragment.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Silistra*, III, № 13; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.362.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a book (r. hand) and a martyr's cross (l. hand).

Circular inscription along the circumference: +ΚΕ ΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔ'. Inscription in two columns: Θ-Δ-I-M || H-T-PI'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΜΙΧΑΗ | ΑΡ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | ΣΤΕΠΟΤ'Τ' | CΧΟΛ'ΤΟΚ | ΟΡΔΝΛ'

+Κ(ύρι)ε β[οή]θει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Μιχαήλ (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ)
τεποτ(ηρητῇ) τ(ῶν) σχολ(ῶν) το Κορδύλ(η)

1021. Συνέσιος σπαθαροκανδιᾱτος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (third quarter, XIth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 28623. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-29 (26) 2 mm. It was once a good imprint but it has been cut in half during the excavations and a piece is missing.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 167α; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.26.7.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist blessing (r. hand) and holding a cross (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΙΩ-ο || Π-Δ-. Along border of dots a circular inscription: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘ.....

Rev. Inscription of six lines preceded and followed by decorations:

| CVNEC | CΠΑΘΑΡ' | ΚΑΝΔ'STO | ΠΟΤΗΡΗΤ' | ΤΟΝCΧΟΛ' | ..CΔVC | -✠-

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ[ει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Συνεσ(ίῳ) σπαθαρ(ο)κανδ(ιδάτῳ) (καὶ)
τοποτηρητῇ τὸν σχολ(ῶν) [τῇ]ς Δύσε(ως)

b) ἄνθρωπος τοῦ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως

1022. Δραζιμῖρ? πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπάτος καὶ ἄνθρωπος τοῦ κουροπαλάτου καὶ δομέστικος τῶν σχολῶν τῆς Δύσεως (1057-1067)

Private collection (Pavlin Stoinov from Trojan). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-30 (?) 2-3 mm. The imprint is complete (with the exception of some peripheral letters) and it is well preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 26.8; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 208.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand on a round shield resting on the ground. Vertical inscription in two columns: -ΓΕ-ΩΡ-ΓΙ-Ο' || Ο-ΜΕ . - CΑ-ΠΕ-ΛΑ-Τ' : [Ο ἄ(γιος)] Γεώργιο(ς) ὁ μέ[γ(α)]ς Ἀπελάτ(ης) [see **Seibt**, *BZ*, 98, 2005, S.131.26.8].

Rev. Inscription of seven lines followed by an ornament:

? |+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΔΡΑΖΙΜΗΡ | Α'CΠΑΘ'ΝΠΑΤ | SΑΝΟ'Τ8Κ8. | ΠΑΛΑΤ'SΔΟΜ |
CΤΗΚΟΤΗC | ΔVCΕΟC |

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Δραζιμῖρ (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) ὑπάτ(ω) (καὶ) ἀνθ(ρώπῳ)
τοῦ κου[ρ(ο)]παλάτ(ου) (καὶ) δομεστήκο τῆς Δύσεος

1023. Ῥωμανὸς β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου ὁ τοῦ δομεστίκος τῶν σχολῶν (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 35. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-20 (19) 2 mm. W. 5. 15 g. Well-centered but weak imprint. The diameter of the blank was the same size or smaller than the dies, as a result of which some letters remained outside or are uncertain.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ on l. arm. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘV. Traces of a circular inscription containing the invocation.

Rev. Inscription of five lines followed by an ornament:

+ΡΩΜΑ. | ΟΡ'Α'CΠΑΘ'S | ΠΙΤ8ΧΡVCT | . ΚΛ' ΟΤ8Δ' | Τ'CΧΩΛ'

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Ῥωμ[α]ν[ο] β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ ἐ)πὶ
τοῦ χρυσοτ[ρ(ι)]κλί(νου) ὁ τοῦ δ(ομεστί)κου τ(ῶν) σχολ(ῶν)

The last two lines are problematic. After the title β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου, ΟΤ8 is indistinctly inscribed. It could be read as the definite article ὁ τοῦ applying to the nephew of a certain Δ' | Τ'CΧΩΛ, in this case, domestikos of scholai. Whether it is so has to be corroborated or ruled out by another better preserved specimen. Whether this nephew is also connected with the army is impossible to say.

2. Στρατηλάτης

It is an ordinary common term. Initially it was used for the translation of the Greek-Latin term magister militum, a title which gained currency in the VIth c. and became obsolete in the VIIIth-IXth centuries (**Bury**, *System*, 23-24; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 296).

With its new precise meaning it appeared in 970s, when John I Tzimiskes honored the then domestikos of the eastern Scholai Bardas Skleros with this title. Since that date, a tagmata called στρατηλάτης has begun to be encountered in the sources.

Στρατηλάτης is presented in the taktikon of Escorial (975) and he ranks eight in the hierarchy (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, S 263.27; p. 303). His prime assistant and deputy was τοποτηρητής τοῦ στρατηλάτου, who is also attested there (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, S 273.22).

The XIth-century sources mention many stratelatai, who are very often specified: of the East or West, but one has a hard time to understand whether it is a chief of a definite tagmata (in the case with the sphragistic monuments the answer is absolutely positive) or a literary expression meaning commander in general. The last distinction made in the sources between a tagmata of the Scholai and of the stratelates respectively of the East and West was under Romanos IV(1067-1071).

Presented below is a seal of John Opheomachos, vestarches and stratelates, without any specification of the East or West. A question poses itself: is the stratelates one person again or this case too does not concern a commander of a unit from the tagmata dispatched on a particular military expedition?

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, 23-24; **Ahrweiler**, *Recherches*, p. 58; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 385-392; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 332; **Idem**, *Evolution*, p. 143; *ODB*, 1965.

a) στρατηλάτης

1024. Ἰωάννης Ὁφειμάχος βεστάρχης καὶ στρατηλάτης (1060s-1070s)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 6030. Found between the villages of Mlekarevo and Elenovo, Nova Zagora region, in 1992. D. 17-17 mm. Whole specimen, but fragments missing.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Новозагорско*, с. 173, N 10; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.533a.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩ.ΙΩΡΕC | .ΑΡΧΙ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..ΤΡΑ | ...ΑΤΗ | ΤΩΟΦΕ. | .ΑΧΙ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ [δ(ούλῳ)] Ἰω(άννῃ) βεσ[τ]άρχι [(καὶ)
σ]τρα[τηλ]άτῃ τῷ Ὁφε[ομ]άχῃ

In his review W. Seibt proposes reading of the reverse as κουράτωρ τῶν κτημάτων instead of στρατηλάτης (see Seibt, *BZ* 101, S. 822), which however I cannot see on our specimen. Hopefully another better preserved specimen appears as to provide greater certitude in the former or latter reading.

b) στρατηλάτης τῆς Δύσεως

1025. Βρυένιος Βατάτζης πατρίκιος-ὑπατος καὶ στρατηλάτης τῆς Δύσεως (mid-XIth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 96. Discovered in 1926 by N. Rankov in a field

near the village of Yablanovo, municipality of Kotel, district of Sliven. Purchased for the sum of 10,000 levs.

The boulloterion has the form of two-armed pliers whose flat arms end with two biconical thick shapes and are connected with a hinge bolt. They are 315 mm in length. The boulloterion weighs 2506 g. The operating jaws are arch-shaped and form two cylindrical dies whose diameter at the lower end is 26 mm. One of them is reverse and since its top was struck with a hammer, this surface is flattened. It is 92 mm in height. The other one is obverse and took the strike which was softened by the lead blank put between the two dies. It is 68 mm high.

D. of the die:

Obv. Diameter of the whole field 26 mm and of the dotted circle 25 mm. Small parts have crumbled, probably during work with seals.

Rev. Diameter of the whole field 26 mm and of the dotted circle 23 mm.

Ed. **Мушмов**, **Н.** Отчет на нумизматичния отдел.- *ОБАИ*, 8, 1927, 1-8; **Mouchmov**, **N** Un nouveau boullotirion byzantin.- *Byzantion*, 4, 1927 (1928), 189-190; **Йорданов**, **И.**, Още веднъж за булотириона от Археологическия музей в София. - *ГНМ*, 8, 1992, 387-393; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 89.

A description of the image and text:

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: \overline{MP} || \overline{OV} .

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΡΥΕΝ'ΠΡΠ | ΝΠΑΤ'ΣCΤΡ' | ΤΙΛΑΤ'ΤΗC | ΔΥC'ΤΩΡΑ | ΤΑΤΖ

Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Βρυεν(ίῳ) π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ) ὑπάτ(ῳ) (καὶ) στρ(α)τιλάτ(ῃ) τῆς
Δύσ(εως) τῷ Βατάτζ(ῃ)

1026. Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητής τοῦ στρατηλάτου (XIth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17012. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-23 (22) 2 mm. W. 5.70 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 167.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown military saint holding a spear (r. hand). Remains of a circular inscription: ..ΕΡ'Θ'Τ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines preceded and followed by decorations:

-✠- | .ΙΩ.. | ..ΠΑΘ'Σ | Τ.ΠΟΤΡΙΤ' | ..CΤΡΑΤ' | .ΑΤ. | -✠-

[+Κ(ύρι)]ε β(οή)θ(ει) τ[ῷ] σῷ δούλῳ] Ἰω[άν(νῃ)] (πρωτο)σ]παθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ)
τ[ο]ποτ(η)ριτ(ῇ) [τοῦ] στρατ(η)[λ]άτ[ου]

3. Δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων

The commander of a corps from the tagmata, which was second in importance. He was first attested under this name in 765; the commander of this military unit instituted by Emperor Leo I (457-474) was previously called κόμης.

In the taktikon of Escorial (975), the exkoubitoi, like the corps of the scholai, are divided not in two but three parts: the first under the command of δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων τῆς

Ἀνατολῆς (**Oikonomodes**, *Listes*, S 265.16); the second of δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων τῆς Δύσεως (**Oikonomodes**, *Listes*, S 265.17); and the third which was stationed in the capital and whose commander was only called δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων (**Oikonomodes**, *Listes*, S 271.18).

But it seems that this division was done some time before the taktikon of Escorial because, according to Kekaumenos, Nikoulitsa Delphinas was appointed domestikos ton exkoubiton in Hellas (δομέστικον τῶν ἐξκουβίτων Ἑλλάδος, see **Литаврин**, *Кекавмен*, 280-281) by emperor Roman II (959-963).

The seal of Michael Drimys presented below is evidence of a similar case in the XIth c. as well.

Unlike the corps of the scholai, it seems that this separation lasted for only a short period of time, since the corps is again one and only in the XIth-century sources. This military unit must have disappeared already before 1082, since it is no longer found in the sources, and in 1118 the hall of the exkoubiton in the Palace had already been occupied by the contingent of the Varangians.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, 57-60; **Ahrweiler**, *Recherches*, 29-30; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 330; **Idem**, *Evolution*, p. 143; **Kühn**, *Armee*, 93-95; *ODB*, 646-647.

1027. Ἀδράλεστος πατρίκιος, δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων καὶ τῆς Ἀνατολῆς (Xth c.)

Private collection (Sofia). Of unknown provenance but probably originates from northeastern Bulgaria. D. 23-23.5 mm. A good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 7.3.

No parallels known.

Obv. The field is divided by four diameters into eight equal parts decorated with dots. On the circumference two letters are inscribed in each part, forming the following inscription: ΚΕ-RO-HΘ-ΕΙ-ΤΩ-CΩ-Δ8-ΛΩ. This decoration could be a combination of two crosses, a regular Greek cross and Saint Andrew's cross.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΑΔ ΡΑ. | ΠΑΤΡΙΚ'Σ | ΔΟΜΕCΤ'Τ' | ΕΞ8RIT' | SANATO | Λ'

+Κύριε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἀδρα[λ(έστῳ)] πατρικ(ίῳ) (καὶ) δομεστ(ίῳ) τ(ῶν) ἐξκουβίτ(ων) (καὶ) Ἀνατολῆς

The seal is generally dated according to its iconography (quite similar to the seals of Symeon magistros and logothetos tou dromou, see **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 128-129) and text to the last quarter of the Xth century.

The text of the seal points out that Adralestos was not only a domestikos of the eastern Exkoubitoi but also a domestikos of the East. No such combination of both offices is known from other sources. One may guess that the domestikos of the exkoubitai sent to this part of the empire was also entrusted with the command of all military units dispatched to the East, i.e. he was supreme commander of the army forces found here during a particular military operation.

On the earlier period of his career when he was ἐκ προσώπου of the strategos of the Thrace and Ioannopolis theme, see here no.1271.

1028. Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἐξκουβίτων (X-XI c.).

Archeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22118. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-27 (?) 3 mm. W. 7.10 g. Incomplete imprint. The end of the dies did not print. The bulla is dented and folded.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 178.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-NI -. || Λ-AO- C. Remains of a circular inscription: ..RO.....ΩΔ....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+..... | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | .ΟΜΕCΤΗ | .ΤΟΝΕΞ. | .RIT.. | - ο -

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ήθει τῷ σῷ δ[ούλῳ] β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) [(καὶ) δ]ομεστή[κ(ω)] τὸν ἐξ[κου]βίτ[ων]

1029. Νικηφόρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐξκούβιτος (X-XI c.).

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-24 mm. Once a complete imprint, now broken into two parts.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 179.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on shield set on the ground. Remains of a vertical inscription in two columns:

Θ-A-Γ-H-. || Θ-ΕΟ-. -O-P. No legible remains of a circular inscription:

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+N.KH | ΦΟΡΟ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'ΣΕ | ΕΟVRH | ΤΩ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ήθει] [τῷ σῷ δ[ούλῳ] Ν[ικηφόρο] β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) ἐξκουβίτῳ]

1030. Μιχαήλ Δριμύς πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς τῶν ἐλαδικῶν, ἐξκουβίτων (XIth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 93. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-20 (18) 3 mm. W.6.43 g. Incomplete imprint and badly preserved bulla. Its upper part is holed.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 27.1; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 209.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-O ||

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | .CΠΑΘ'SΤΟ | ..ΤΕΡ'Τ'ΤΟ. | ΕΛΑΔΙΚ' ΕΞ | Κ8RITΩΝΟ | ΔΡΥΜΙC

Μιχαήλ [(πρωτο)]σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) το[πο]τερ(ητής) τὸ[ν] ἐλαδικ(ῶν) ἐξκουβίτων ὁ Δριμύς

4. Δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων

A corps of the imperial guard created by Nikephoros I Genikos (802-811) in 809 as a private bodyguard of his son and co-emperor Stavrakios. Initially, it consisted of members of the noblest families only. During the campaign of Nikephoros I and Stavrakios in Bulgaria, the corps of Hikanatoi was completely destroyed. Its name was also attested in the later sources, thus giving us grounds to assume that it wasn't already an ordinary corps, but a cavalry one from the tagmata.

A commander of the corps was δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων. He is presented in alltaktika, including the Escorial one, along with his first assistant, the topoteretes (see Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 332). In the XIth c., the importance of this corps and its commander decreased, for which reason its name was no longer to be found after the reign of Emperor Basil II (976-1025).

Lit. Bury, *System*, 63-64; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 332; Idem, *Evolution*, p. 143; Kühn, *Armee*, 116-119; OBD, 647.

1031-1037. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων καὶ Δύσεως (975-?)

All seven copies with the possible exception of no. 1037 were struck with the same pair of dies.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 168-174; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 631-637.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΛΕΟ | R' A' CΠAΘ' | ΔOMΕ | CTIK'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+TONH | KANAT' | ΔVCEO | CAPA | KIN

+Λέο(ν) β' (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) [(καὶ)] δομέστικ(ος) τον ἡκανάτ(ων) [(καὶ)]

Δύσεο(ς) ὁ Σαρακιν(όπουλος)

1038. Θεόδωρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων (X c.).

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18884. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 13-21 (20?) 2.5 mm.

Half of what was once an incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 166.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Remnants of a vertical inscription in two columns:..... || Δ-O-P' No legible remains of a circular inscription.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+Θ... | P'R'.... | .SΔO... | .IK'T... | .A....

[+K(ύρι)]ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Θ[εοδώ]ρω β'[(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ)] (καὶ)

δο[μεστ]ίκ(ω) τ[ῶν] ἱκ[α]ν[ά]τ(ων)

1039. Κωνσταντῖνος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων (X c.).

Private collection. Find-spot: the stratega of Preslav. D. 25-26 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 175.

No parallels known.

Obv. Unclear image obliterated with corrosion.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΚΩNCT | A' CΠAΘ' S | OM'T' TON | KANAT' | TΩΔ... | - C -

Κωνστ(αντίνῳ) [β'] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) [δ]ομ(εστίκῳ) τὸν [ι]κανάτ(ων)

τῷ Δ....

1040-1041. Νικηφόρος Τζουράκης / Τζυράκης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δομέστικος τῶν ἱκανάτων (X c.)

1040. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2391. Find-spot: the stratega of Preslav. D. 22-23 (over 22) 4 mm. W. 13.06 g. Well-preserved but incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 176; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 718.

1041. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 11680. Find-spot: the stratega of Preslav. D. 21-22 (over 22) 2 mm. W. 8.45 g. Unsuccessful imprint. Dislocation between the two sides of the dies. The surface of the imprint is subsequently corroded.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 177; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 719.

Both specimens were struck with the same pair of dies.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

.. EPO | ΘΕΙΤΩC | Δ8Λ' NIKH | ΦOP' A' CΠA | ΘAP..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

KAI | ΔOMECT. | KΩTIKAN. | T'TONTZ. | - PAK'-

[+K(ύρι)]ε βο[ή]θει τῷ σ(ῷ) δούλ(ω) Νικηφόρ(ω) (πρωτο)σπαθαρ[ίῳ] καὶ
δομεστ[ί]κῳ τ(ῶν) ἱκαν[ά]τ(ον) τὸν Τζ[ου]ράκ(η)

5. Δρουγγάριος τῆς βῆγλης

For information on the office whose judicial functions prevailed in the XIth c., see the part on jurisdiction.

a) δρουγγάριος τῆς βῆγλης

1042-1044. Κυριακὸς πατρίκιος καὶ δρουγγάριος τῆς βῆγλης (X-XI c.)

1042. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2397. Find-spot: the stratega of Preslav. D. 21-23 (21) 3 mm. W. 9.15 g. Well-preserved but incomplete imprint. Only the letters in the center of the blank printed.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 180.

1043. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17267. Find-spot: the stratega of Preslav. D. 22-25 (21) 3 mm. W. 9.20 g. Well-preserved but incomplete imprint as above.

1044. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: the strategia of Preslav. D. 13-25 mm. Fragment about a half of the whole specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 182.

The three specimens were struck with the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Laurent, Corpus, II, no. 889 /A/ preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- o - | +KERO | .ΘΕΙΤ. | .ΩΔ8Λ. | KVP1A. | - o -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΠΑΤΡΙ. | ΔΡ8ΓΓ. | .ΙΩΤΗ. | ΙΓΛΗ | - o -

+K(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θει τ[ῶ] σ[ῶ] δούλ[ω] Κυρια[κῶ] πατρι[κ(ίω) (καί)] δρουγγ[αρ]ίω
τῆ[ς β]ίγλη[ς]

b) τοποτηρητής τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ

In the earlier taktika, δρουγγάριος τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ or δρουγγάριος τῶν ἀριθμῶν are found in stead of δρουγγάριος τῆς βῆγλης. As with the remaining corps of the tagmata, his first assistant was τοποτηρητής τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ (see Guillard, Recherches, I, 564). They as well as hikanatoi are not found in sources after Vasil II's reign (see Oikonomides, Evolution, p. 143)

1045. Θεόδωρος Τζάντζης β'σπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρῆς τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21578. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-23 (20) 2 mm. W. 6.70 g. Low-quality imprint, well-centered but struck rather weakly in the boulloterion, as a result not all letters were printed out.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 183; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 711.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Γ-Ε ||

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

. KEP'Θ' | .ΘΕΩΔΟΡ' | ..ΠΑΘ'ST | .ΟΤΙΡΙΤΙ | .ΟΝΑΡΙΘΜ' | ΤΟΝΤΖΑΝ | ΤΖΙ
[+]K(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θει Θεωδόρ(ω) [β'σ]παθ(αρίω) (καί) τ(ο)[π]οτιριτι [τ]ὸν
ἀριθμ(ὸν) τὸν Τζαντζῖ

6. Δομέστικος τῶν νουμέρων

It first appeared as an office in the IXth-century written sources. Regarding the purpose of this corps of guards, whose commander was the domestikos, there is a division of opinions among investigators: some accept that it is one of the corps composing the tagmata (Bury, System, 65-66; Ahrweiler, Recherches, p.25); others tend to relate their office with the guarding of the Palace, the fortress walls and mainly one of the prisons in the capital called τὰ Νουμέρα (Guillard, Les Noumera, 401-418). That is the reason, according to Oikonomides, for the absence in the sources of a single case of participation of this guard unit or of its domestikos in military operations outside the capital (Oikonomides, Listes, p.

337; ODB, 647).

Their importance in the XIth c. decreased and already in the mid of the same century the name of δομέστικος τῶν νουμέρων was not found in the sources (Oikonomides, Evolution, p. 143).

1046. Μιχαήλ πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ δομέστικος τῶν νουμέρων (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17610. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-28 (22) 2 mm. W. 6.15 g. Incomplete imprint. There is 5 mm displacement of the obv. in relation to the rev.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 184.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla : .. || ΘV. Traces of a circular inscription:.....ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots:

..XAH. | A'CΠAΘA. | ..T8XSΔO | .ECTH.. | . 8N8M .

[+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθει] τῶ σ[ῶ] δούλ[ω] [Μι]χαή[λ](πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίω) [ἐπὶ] τοῦ
χρ(υσο)τρικλίνου) (καί) δομ[έ]στή[κω τ]οῦ νουμ(έ)[ρ(ων)]

7. Δρουγγάριος τῶν πλοΐμων

A chief of the Constantinopolitan fleet. He was attested as early as the VIIIth c., but first appeared in the rank lists toward the mid-IXth c. He was a supreme commander of the admiralty, for which he was called δρουγγάριος τῶν πλω(ο)ίμων or δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλω(ο)ίμων.

Ca. 1085, when the thematic fleet was abolished and a united naval commanding body was created, the commander was granted the title μέγας δούξ τοῦ στόλου, which quite soon developed into μέγας δούξ.

The imperial fleet secured the defense of the capital as its priority, but it also had a number of strategic bases through which it maintained control over the Adriatic sea, Sicily, Ionian sea and other basins. It was a military force organized as the tagmata, upon which the Empire relied regarding threats from anywhere.

κόμης τοῦ στόλου

A chief of three or four dromones together with the military units in them, hence, a commander of a small squadron. Such naval military units were dispatched to the province in connection with various threads and they moored there until the danger was eliminated or pended their recall.

Lit. Bury, System, 108-111; Brehier, Institutions, 404-412; Ahrweiler, La Mer, 62-63,69-71, 73-76,88-89, 97-107; Guillard, Recherches, I, 535-562; Oikonomides, Listes, p.340; Idem, Evolution, 146-147; ODB, 663-664.

a) δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοΐμων

1047. Ἡλίας β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοΐμων (second half, IX c.)

Archaeological Center, Devlet, no.406. Found in the course of excavations of the kommerkia from the second period of its activity. D. 23-23 (18) 4 mm, 12.03 g. Once perhaps a good imprint, now deeply corroded.
Ed. Йорданов, Девлет № 50.

Parallels: Further two specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 55.1. 1434) and ANS, coll. Mabbott no. 356 (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 954).

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps. Traces of a circular inscription between two borders of dots: + KER.....ΩΔΟΝΛ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- :- | + ΗΛΙΑΡ' | Α' ΠΑΘ' | Ρ | ...ΑΡ. V | .. ΛΟΙΜ | .VAM'
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ[ω] Ἡλίας β'(πρωτο)σ[π]αθ(αρίω) [(καὶ
δ]ρ[ουγ]αρχ[ίω] τοῦ [π]λοῖμ(ου) [ἀ]μ(ήν)

The narrative sources from the second half of the IXth c. report a droungarios by that name:

On September 25th 867, the new Emperor Basil I (867-886) dispatched the droungarios Elias on the mission to restore Patriarch Ignatios on the throne (847-855 and 867-877, see Vita Ignatii, *PG.*, 105.540B);

Perhaps the same Ἡλίας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοῖμων is one of the correspondents of the former and future Patriarch Photios (858-867 and 877-886, see **Photius**, *Epistule*, nos. 16.1; 121.1; 127.1).

Taking into consideration the iconography of the seal and the fact that δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοῖμων holds the titles anthypatos and patrikios in the taktikon of Philotheos (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, Ph 139.28), it is acceptable to date the above seal to 860s-870s and to identify its owner with Elias mentioned above.

1048. Χριστοφόρος πατρίκιος καὶ δρουγγάριος τοῦ πλοῖμων (X c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: the region of Devlet, along with other seals. I was sent information on the find and a copy of the text by Prof. I. Karayotov.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand). Sigla at r. X-A.

Remnants of a circular inscription: +ΤΩCΔ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΧΡΗΣ | ΤΟΦΟΡΟ... | ΤΡΙΚ... | ΔΡΟΝΓΓ | Τ'ΠΛΟΙΜ
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει [τῷ σῷ δ(ούλω) Χρηστοφόρο [πα]τρικ[ίω] (καὶ)]
δρουγγ(αρίω) τ(οῦ) πλοῖμ(ου)

Despite the incomplete documentation, I have included this seal to complete the list of the titulars.

1049. Λέων πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, βέστης καὶ δρουγγάριος τῶν πλοῖμων (970s)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain (Preslav ?). D. 25-32 mm. Incomplete imprint with missing fields, thus rendering the reading of the text difficult.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Another specimen seemingly struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Zacos unpublished collection, III, no.998.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕ.. | ΗΘΕΙΤΟ .. | ΔΟΝΛΩ.. | ΟΝΤΙΠ. | .ΡΙΚ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

| ..ΑΙΠΟ |Ω..CT. | ...ΔΡ8ΓΓΑΡ | ...ΩΠΛΟ | .ΜΩΝ
+Κ(ύρι)ε [βο]ήθει το [σῷ] δούλω [Λέ]οντι [πα]τρικ[ίω] [πρ]απο[σίτ]ω [βέ]στ[η]
καὶ] δρουγγαρχ[ίω] τῷ(ν) πλο[ί]μων

The dating of the seal is generally to the last quarter of the Xth c. There is an individual known from that period bearing a similar title and position.

It is the droungarios of the fleet Leo left to govern the capital Constantinople during the campaign of Emperor John I Tzimiskes in eastern Bulgaria. A plot of the Phokas family was discovered in the capital, with which Leo successfully coped.

In Leo the Deacon, he is reported in his capacity as “Λέων πατρίκιος καὶ δουγγάριος τῶν πλοῖμων (see **Diaconi**, 147.5-6; **Дякону**, c. 77; **Leo the Deacon**, p. 191), while, according to John Skylitzes, he is Λέων πρωτοβεστιάριος καὶ δουγγάριος τῶν πλοῖμων (**Skylitzes**, 295.7-8). It is assumed that he was at the head of the imperial army against the rebel Bardas Skleros and was captured in 977 at Rageas (**Skylitzes**, 321-322). Skylitzes perhaps updated the title βέστης or (πρωτο)βέστης to πρωτοβεστιάριος, and it is likewise possible that precisely the latter is inscribed on our seal.

The lack of a family name and the positions and missions with which Leo was charged define him as a eunuch. Thus, it is quite reasonable that he should hold the titles πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, βέστης inscribed on the present seal, as noted in the taktikon of Escorial (**Oikonomides**, *Listes*, S 263.16), whose contemporary Leo was. In this particular case, he held the effective position of droungarios of the fleet. It is not unlikely that his correspondence was received in the region of the Lower Danube, where the emperor stayed in connection with the above events.

1050. Κωνσταντῖνος βεστάρχης καὶ δρουγγάριος τῶν πλωῖμων (third quarter, XIth c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 12340/2. Purchased from Alexander Boev from Silistra. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 7-15 (15) 2.5 mm. W.1.83 g. Fragment smaller than the half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 11; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 268.

Parallels: Further three specimens struck in the same boulloterion are known in the literature: one from the former Schlumberger's collection, *Sig.*, p. 339, currently in the Hermitage (M-8382); the second from the museum in Antiochos, no. 482 (strangely, not included in the latest publication of seals from this collection); and the third one from the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 55. 1. 1958). See **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 967.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

.... | ΕΙ |Δ8 | ...ΩΝ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΡΕ.... | ΧΗ.... | ΓΑΡ.... | ΠΛ...
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ]ει [τῷ σῷ] δού[λω] Κ[ων]σταντίνω βε[στάρ]χη [(καὶ)
δρουγ]γαρχ[ίω] τῶν] πλωῖμ(ων)]

The publishers of the first specimen (*Schlumberger, Sig.*, p. 339, no 2; *Шандровская, Искусство*, № 750) proposed general dating to the XIth c. In the publication of the other two specimens, Laurent corroborated this dating, which is principally correct, but the data of the seal allow a more precise specification. The combination of the title vestarches and the position δρουγγάριος τῶν πλωίων, as well as the appearance of the seal point to a general dating to the third quarter of the XIth c. The terminus post quem should not exceed 1085, when this position was replaced with δούξ τοῦ στόλου.

There may have been various reasons for sending a correspondence from the chief of the Byzantine fleet to Dristra, most often due to the need of protecting this fortress from the nomadic invasions across the Danube.

a) κόμης τοῦ στόλου

1051. Ἰωάννης Προβατᾶς σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ κόμης τοῦ στόλου (XI c.)

The old collection of the director of the college in Silistra, Papahagi. Find-spot: the town. D. 29-29 (?) 3-4 mm. Incomplete imprint, since the diameter of the dies was larger than that of the blank.
Ed. Papahagi, P. Sceaux de plomb byzantins inedits trouves a Silistrie.-RESEE, 8, 1931, 308-310; *Banescu, Silistrie*, no VI; *Laurent Corpus*, II, no 986; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no.591.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist blessing (r. hand) and holding an indeterminate object (l. hand) (due to obliteration of the bulla). No traces of an inscription visible.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

..... | .ΩCΩΔ. | ΙΩCΠAΘ'K | ΔΔ'SKOMI | T'T8CTOΛ' | .ΩPOR | - .TA -
[+ K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ[ούλ(ω)] Ἰω(άννη) σπαθ(αρο)κ(αν)δ(ι)δ(άτῳ)
(καὶ) κόμιτ(ι) τοῦ στόλ(ου) [τῷ Προβ[α]τᾶ]

1052. Κωνσταντῖνος κόμης τοῦ στόλου (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev, Charmanli). Find-spot: Silistra ?. D. 13-21.5 (20) 2 mm. Once a good imprint. Half is preserved.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a bust of St. Anastasios, holding a martyr's cross. Vertical inscription: ... || N-A-C.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ KΩ. | CTA... | KOM.. | TOV... | ΛΟ.
+ Kω[ν]στα[ντ(ῖ)ν(ος)] κόμ[ης] τοῦ [στό]λο[υ]

The text of the seal is incomplete which renders the reading difficult. The above proposition is only one possible variant.

G. Zacos Collection (*Seals*, II, no. 429) contains a seal of a certain Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος, δομέστικος τῆς ὑποργίας καὶ ἀκολούθος.

Besides the identical homonym, the iconographic subject of the two groups of seals is also the same. That in its turn raises the question whether they did not belong to one and the same owner.

8. Δομέστικος τοῦ τείχους

In the written sources we find this office under various names. It is first mentioned under the above name in the IXth c., but he also had his predecessors in the earlier periods. It is known that right after the construction of the so called "Long" or "Anastasios" Wall in the early VIth c., its commandant was also appointed there.

In the Xth c., δομέστικος τοῦ τείχους was also in charge of the defense of the fortifications inside the capital. He watched over their safety and when needed took measures for their repair. He was also responsible for the prisons located inside them.

After the mid-XIth c., it is no longer found as a term, but it retained its functions. One of them, the control over the prisons in the fortress walls, passed to the department of παπίας.

Lit. Bury, System, 67-68; *Guilland, Le comte de murs*, 17-25; *Oikonomides, Listes*, p.337; *Idem, Evolution*, p. 143; *ODB*, 1140.

1053-1054. Ρωμανὸς β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ δομέστικος τοῦ τείχους (X-XI c.)

1053. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17625. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-22 (22) 2.5 mm. W. 6.40 g. Incomplete imprint due to off-centering and a smaller blank.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 185.

1054. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18426. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-27 (22) 1.5 mm. W. 5.35 g. Incomplete imprint due to the loose boulloterion. The bulla itself is damaged.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 186.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. On either side a fleuron up to the second horizontal arm. Traces of a circular inscription: Θ'ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

PΩMAN | A'CΠAΘ'. | ΔOMEC. | T8THN. | - OV -
[+ K(ύρι)ε βοή]θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω)] Ρωμαν(ῳ) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) [(καὶ)]
δομεσ[τ(ίκῳ)] τοῦ την[έ]ου

9. Δομέστικος τῶν βασιλικῶν

1055. Κωνσταντῖνος Βεριώτης (?) πρωτοσπαθᾶριος κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ δομέστικος τῶν βασιλικῶν (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15231. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 28.5-30 (23) 3.5 mm. W. 17.20 g. Well-centered on the obverse. The blank slipped in the boulloterion on the reverse and the imprint is made slightly off-center. Some letters are not preserved which renders the reading difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhkova, no. 269.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Saint Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: ☉-NI || K-ΟΛ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΩΝ Α΄|CΠΑΘ'ΚΡΗ | Τ'Τ8ΙΠΠ.. | ΣΔΟΜ'ΤΟΝ | Ρ'ΟΡ.Ρ
+[Κ]ω(νσταντῖνος) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) κριτ(ῆς) (ἐπὶ) τοῦ ἵππ(ο)[δρ(όμου)]
(καὶ) δομέστικος τῶν βασιλικῶν ὁ Β[ε]ρ(ιώτης)

The office δομέστικος τῶν βασιλικῶν, according to Oikonomides, is connected with the command of special imperial troops (see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 328). If the reading is correct, we are disturbed by the combination of the offices κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου and δομέστικος τῶν βασιλικῶν. There is another reservation: if the reading of the patronym is correct, there are known seals of Constantine Beriotēs as a private person, which are dated to the late XIth c. (see **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 113). Whether it concerns the same person is impossible to say.

10. Κόμης τοῦ σταύλου

A head of a department, which controlled the imperial stables and studs in Malagina. At war, he was responsible for the military escort providing it with horses and mules and exercising control over its staff. The office is high-ranking and honorific, as illustrated by the seals below, which was occupied after a long service in the provinces.

In the XIth c., it lost its importance. Its last mention is in the taktikon of Escorial, but its functions were undoubtedly preserved and transferred to another department.

Lit. **Bury**, *System*, p. 114; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 469-477; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.338-339; **Idem**, *Evolution*, p. 145; *ODB*, p. 1140.

1056. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος πατρίκιος, κόμης τοῦ σταύλου καὶ πρωτοστράτωρ (970s-980s)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18061. Find-spot: the strategia of Preslav. D. 25-27 (?) 2 mm. W. 6.15 g. Incomplete imprint. More than one third of the dies did not print. All this renders the reading difficult and uncertain.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 19; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 638.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription in five lines:

..... | .ΑΤΡΙΚ. | .ΣΚΟΜΗ. | ΤΟΥCΤ. | ΛΟΥ

Rev. Inscription in five lines:

..... | ...ΡΑΤ. | ...ΟCΑΡ | .ΙΝΟΠΟ. | ΛΟC

[+Λέων π]ατρίκ[ι]ος κόμη[ς] τοῦ στ(α)[ύ]λου [(καὶ) πρωτοστ]ράτ[ωρος] ὁ
Σαρ(α)[κ]ινόπο[υ]λος

1057. Ἰσαάκιος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κόμης τοῦ σταύλου (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2390. Find-spot: the strategia of Preslav. D. 20-20 (20?) 3 mm. W. 8.15 g. Well-preserved but incomplete imprint due to the smaller blank.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 192.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

.ΚΕΡΟ | . ΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8Λ | ΩΗCΑΚ | ΙΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΑΝΘ. | ΠΑΤ'ΠΑΤ. | Κ'ΣΚΟΜ. | ΤΙΤ8CΤΑ | .ΟΥ-

[+]Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰσακίῳ ἀνθ[υ]πάτ(ω) πατ[ρ(ι)]κ(ίῳ) (καὶ)
κόμ[ι]τι τοῦ στα(ύ)[λ]ου

1058. Ἰωάννης κληρικὸς καὶ ἐπείκτης (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14752. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 14-15 (14) 3 mm. W. 3.98 g. Well-centered and well-preserved imprint. Nevertheless the reverse is slightly moved and some letters remained outside the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 252.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Along border of dots circular inscription:

+ΚΕΡΟΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

ΙΩΑΝ. | ΚΛΙΡΙΚ. | ΚΕΠΙΚ | ΤΟΥ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Ἰωάν[ν(η)] κληρικ[ῶ] κ(αὶ) ἐπ(ε)ικτοῦ

The seal belonged to ὁ ἐπείκτης, one of the subordinates of κόμης τοῦ σταύλου (on his position, see **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, p.469; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.339).

11. Κόμης τῆς κόρτης

He is earliest attested in the taktikon of Uspenskij (842-843) and was affiliated to the respective tagmata or theme. He was in charge of the accommodation of the domestikos or strategos and of his links with the remaining commanders during campaigns. There are known titulars, mainly on sphragistic monuments, whose office was not connected with a particular administrative unit or military corps. They were presumably in service with the emperor. They were in charge of his accommodation during the campaign, they got in touch with κόμης τῆς κόρτης of the rest of the themes and corps for the building of the emperor's tent and its links with the other tents.

These were real quartermasters during military expeditions. The office is not attested in the taktikon of Escorial. Komites tes kortes appear in the list of provincial functionaries from 995. The last references to komites tes kortes are in the beginning of XIIth c.

Lit. **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 331; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p. 341, n. 308; *ODB*, 1139.

1059. Εὐγένιος κόμης τῆς κόρτης (X-XI c.)

RHM-Blagoevgrad, no.40. Found in the course of excavations in the southeastern corner on the floor of the Samuil Fortress on August 6 1979. D. 23-25 (?) 4.5 mm. Weak imprint, covered with thick white incrustation, which renders the reading difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons rising to the second arm. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗ..... ΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.VΓΕ | ΝΙΩΚΟ | ΜΙΤ'ΚΟΡ | ΤΙC

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή[θει τῷ σ]ῶ δούλ(ω) [Ε]ὐγενί(ω) κόμ(ι)τ(ι) τ(ῆς) κόρτις

12. Ταξιάρχης

A part from the main corps of the tagmata presented here, some smaller military units in the Byzantine army are also known, whose military commanders had relative independence.

One of them was ταξιάρχος or ταξιάρχης, a commander of ταξιαρχία.

It is a contingent of a thousand foot soldiers, out of which five hundred armed with lances, two hundred armed with spears and three hundred with bows.

At war, the taxiarches was subordinate to the commander in chief of the foot, the hoplitarches, and at peace, to the local strategos or katepano, where his unit garrisoned.

This military commander first appeared in the sources (inscriptions and seals) under Nikephoros II (963-969), and in the rank lists, in the taktikon of Escorial (975) at the earliest, where the taxiarchoi occupy the last humble place.

Most investigators tend to accept that the main contingent of soldiers forming the respective taxiarchia were Armenians, Russians or other barbarians, i.e. non-Romans, armed mainly with metal spears, who most often garrisoned in frontier regions. That is evidenced by the Bulgarian finds. Almost all bullae of taxiarchoi were found in the region of Dristra and Preslav, i.e. near the frontier of the Byzantine West – the river Danube.

Lit. Куликовский, Ю. Византийский лагерь конца X в.-ВВр., 10, 1903, 64-65; Вальденберг, В. Ταξιάρχης.-ВВр., 24, 1926, 134-137; Литаврин, Кекавмен, 433-435; Falkenhausen, Untersuchungen, 115-116; Oikonomides, Listes, 335-336; Dennis, Treatises, p. 255, n.1; ODB, 2018.

1060-1061. Βραχάμιος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ταξιάρχης (XI c.)

1060. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 16640. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-18 (over 18) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint in a superb state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 187.

1061. Private collection. Find-spot: perhaps it “leaked out” from Preslav. D. 17-20 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

. ΚΕΡ' . | . ΩCΩΔ8 | Λ'ΡΡΑΧΑ | ΜΗΩ | - ∴ -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΠΑΘ. | Ρ'ΚΑΝΔΔ' | ΣΤΑΞΙ | ΑΡΧΗ | - ∴ -

[+]**Κ(ύρι)ε βοή[θ(ει) τῷ σ]ῶ δούλ(ω) Βραχαμή(ω) [σ]παθ[α]ρ(ο)κανδ(ι)δ(άτ(ω) (καὶ) ταξιάρχ(η)**

1062. Γεώργιος ταξιάρχος (XI c.)

Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-27 (?) ? mm. Superb imprint on the *obv.*; part of the *rev.* is obliterated.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Ο-Γ-Ε ||

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ∴ - | +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΕΩΡΓΙ' | ..ΖΙΑΡ | ΧΩ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή[θ(ει) [Γ]εωργ(ίω) [τα]ξάρχ(ω)

1063-1064. Ελπίδιος Βραχάμιος ταξιάρχης (XI c.)

1063. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24564. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-23 (20) 1.5-5 mm. W. 11.50 g. Unsuccessful imprint. The blank was “bitten” in the boulloterion and has different thickness of 1.5-5 mm. The bulla itself was subsequently cut off into a rectangular shape.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 188; *Ed.* Jordanov, Family Names, no.123.

1064. RHM-Shumen, no. 14837. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 22-25 mm. W. 11.50 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no.124; Jordanov, Zhekova, no.270.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-Δ- . || Μ-Ι-ΤΡ': 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Δ[η]μήτρ(ιος)

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΕΛ | ΠΗΔ'ΤΑ | ΞΙΑΡΧ | ΟΡΡΑΧ. | ΜΗΟ'

'Ελπήδ(ιος) ταξιάρχ(ης) ὁ Βραχ[ά]μη(ος)

1065-1066. Θεόδωριος σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ ταξιάρχης (last quarter, Xth c.)

1065. Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 22-24 (18) 2.1 mm. Incomplete imprint, but specimen in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

1066. RHM-Russe. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Rjahovo, disc. Russe. D. 12-12 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint .

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a martyr's cross (r. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription:

.... || . -Δ-ΡΟ-.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ÷ - | ΘΕΟΔ. | ΠΑΘΑ. | ΚΑΝΔΔ'. | ΞΙΑ. | - Χ'-
+ Θεόδ(ω)[ρ(ιος) σ]παθα[ρο]κανδ(ι)δ(ᾱτος) [(καὶ) τα]ξιάρ[ρ]χ(ης)

Theodore spatharokandidatos and taxiarches sent his correspondence to individuals sojourning in Silistra and in the fortress near the village of Rjahovo, Ruse region. These were perhaps also military men with whom he coordinated his operations.

1067. Ἰωάννης ταξιάρχος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv. Found during excavations in the town in 1988. D. 26-27 (22) 3.1 mm. The letters on the rev. are indistinct, some traces seem to be visible after the last line, but it is not clear whether they are from this seal or another.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Unclear image of a bishop saint, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Unclear traces of a vertical inscription.

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ΙΩ | ΤΞΙΑΡ | ΧΟC
Ἰω(άννη) τ(α)ξιάρχος

1068. Ἰωσήφ σπαθαροκανδιδᾱτος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no.196. Found in the course of excavations of the Little Palace, sector North, square 20, at a depth of 0.20 m in 1982. D. 23-24 (18) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. The dies printed only on the channel swelling, thus rendering the restoration uncertain.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- . - | ΙΩ | ΦCΠ.. | ΚΑΝ.. | ΞΙΑ.. | ΗΙ.. | Ι....
[+]Ἰω[σὴ]φ σπ[αθ(αρο)κανδ(ι)δ(ᾱτος) (καὶ) τα]ξιάρ[ρ]χ(ης) ὁ

1069. Κούρτος πρωτοσπαθᾱριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain place in northeastern Bulgaria (Silistra or Preslav). D. 25-27 mm. Superb imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands open before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ Κ8Ρ | ΤΟΑ'CΠΑ | Θ'ΣΤΑΞΙ | ΑΡΧΙ

+Κούρτο (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) ταξιάρχι

Obviously, this is a case of a foreigner admitted to service in Byzantium. The name is Turkish. It is connected with the Bulgarian state as well. The name of one of the first Bulgarian rulers in The Name List of the Bulgarian Khans is Kurt. The tarkhan of Kutmichevitsa from the Life of St. Clement of Ohrid bears the same name, but it was common not only among the proto-Bulgarians. It is attested among the other Turkish people as well (see **Moravscik**, *Byzturcica*, II, S.169).

The appointment of Kurtos as taxiarches is quite reasonable: a commander of non-Roman freelances who most often garrisoned in frontier regions. The dating of the seal is generally to the Xth-XIth centuries, when various peoples including Turks (Magyars, Pechenegs and others) served in the Empire in their capacity as freelances.

1070-1072. Λέων Πεδιάσιμος ταξιάρχης (XI c.)

1070. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Formerly in the collection of Dinko Tanev from Stara Zagora. Find-spot: presumably southern Bulgaria. D. 25-27 (21) 3 mm. W. 10.20 g. Weak imprint, double struck slantwise.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 560; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 271.

1071. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-21 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 561.

1072. RHM-Shumen, no. 15449. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 28-30 (21 ?) 2 mm. W. 10.08 g. Big flat blank, incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Unpublished

It is difficult to be absolutely certain whether the three specimens were struck in one and the same boulloterion, since they are deformed and incomplete.

Obv. Bust of St. George facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-Γ-Ε-|| Γ-Η-ΟC

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a. + ΛΕΟΝ | ΑΞΗΑΡΧ | ΟΠΕΔΗ . | CHMOC

b. | . . . HAPX | . ΠΕΔΗ . | . HMOC

c. . . . ΩΝ | . . ΞΗΑΡΧ | . ΠΕΔΗΑ | . . MOC

+ Λέον [τ]αξηάρχ(ης) ὁ Πεδηάσημος

The most characteristic of the paleography is the writing of M=⊥ in the last line.

1073. Μιχαήλ Ἀλυάτης πρωτοσπαθᾱριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no.22936. Find-spot: the strategia of Preslav. D. 17-19 (17) 3 mm, W.4.80 g. Incomplete imprint. Only the letters on the channel swelling printed.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 190; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 28.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

.KERO | .Θ'. WC' | .8Λ.. | .AH.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.CΠAΘ' | .TAΞ. | PX'T. | .ΛIA.

[+K(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θ(ει) [τ]ῷ σ(ῶ) [δ]ούλ(ω) [Μιχ]αήλ (πρωτο)]σπαθ(αρίω)
[(καὶ)] ταξ[ι]άρχ(η) τ[ῷ] 'Α]λιά[τ(η)]

1074. Μιχαήλ Φυτιανός β' πρωτο/σπαθάριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 27-27(18)3.2 mm. Incomplete imprint, which renders the reading of the text difficult. The problems concern Michael's title and homonym. The completion above is only one possible variant.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 738.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore Stratelates holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-ΟΔ-Ω-Ρ' || Ο-С.-.....:Ο ἄ(γιος) Θεόδωρος ὁ Σ[τρατηλάτης].

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+KERO'Θ' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | .CΠAΘAP' | .AΞHAPX' | .ΩΦΥTH | -ANO -

+K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Μιχαήλ [β'] or [(πρωτο)]σπαθαρί(ω) [(καὶ) τ]αξιάρχ(η)
[τ]ῷ Φυτιάνο

1075. Ρωμανός β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (X-XI c.)

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: the stronghold "Blesna (Belismos)" near the present Dimitrovgrad. D. 23-26(19-20) 2.2 mm. W. 5.38 g. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint due to the thin blank which folded in the boulloterion.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Blesna*, no. 15.

No parallels known.

Obv. In center, a monogram consisting of the letters P-M-Ω = Ρωμ(ανῶ) and placed within a frame of four pearls. At either side in the filed, a five-pointed star.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+R'A' | .ΠAΘAP | IΩSTΞ. | APX.

+Ρωμ(ανῶ) β'(πρωτο)[σ]παθαρίω (καὶ) τ(α)ξ[ι]άρχ[η]

1076. N., Δηποταμίτης σπαθάριος καὶ ταξιάρχης (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14229. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Comes from northeastern Bulgaria (Preslav or Silistra). D. 20-23 (?) 2-3 mm. W. 7.96 g. A badly damaged specimen with portions chipped. The obverse is completely obliterated. The text of the reverse is badly damaged. The letters are discernible when magnified many times.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 544; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 166.

No parallels known.

Obv. Completely obliterated surface.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | O..... | CΠAΘAP | .TAΞIA | P'T8ΔH | ΠOTAM

.....σπαθαρί(ω) [(καὶ)] ταξιάρχ(η) τοῦ Δηποταμ(ίτη)

1077. N., Κατακαλὼν ταξιάρχης (XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, presumably northeastern Bulgaria (Preslav or Silistra). D.23-23 mm.

Incomplete imprint. The first two or three lines are missing, which renders the reading insecure.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | TAΞIAP | X8ATA | KAAH

..... ταξιάρχου Κατακαλ(ῶ)ν

1078. N., Στραβοτριχάρης ταξιάρχης (XI c.)

1078. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22119. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-20 (20 ?)

3 mm. W. 6.95 g. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller in diameter than the dies. The first line of the inscription was not printed.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 189; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 671.

No parallels known.

1078A. A second specimen from a different boulloterion which was struck over a bulla of Melias strategos of Preslavitsa (for him, see here no. 1422) was found during excavations in Preslav.

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 298/ 08.08. 2007. Found in the course of excavations of the Palace Church site, square 162/123-133. on the ground. D. 26.5-26.5 (22) 4 mm. Once a complete and well-centered imprint. Understruck. Here are the descriptions of the over- and understrikes.

Overstrike:

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas wearing prelate's attire, blessing with his r. hand and holding the Gospel in his l. hand. Vertical inscription at r.: O-A-ΓI-O || . The name should be inscribed at l. but the preserved letters there are from a different strike. Circular inscription beginning at 5 o'clock containing the invocation: + KEROH

Rev. The first two lines of the inscription were not preserved:

..... | | .. ZAPX | .CTPARW | TPHXAP'

..... ταξ(ι)άρχ(ης) [ὁ] Στραβωτριχάρ(ης)

Understrike:

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book s (l. hand). Vertical inscription: .-A-ΓI-O' || .-I-KO-A-A'. Preserved from the circular inscription containing the invocation of the second specimen: + KEROH ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | . AK'TAΞ. | APXOCTPA | ROTPH | XAPIC

..... | | .. ZAPX | .CTPARΩ | TPHXAP'

[+Βασιλ]άκιος / [Θεοφυλ]άκ(ιος) ταξ[ι]άρχ(ης) ὁ Στραβοτριχάρης

Unfortunately the second specimen is incomplete and does not settle the question of the owner's proper name, but at least provides an outline. The taxiarches N. Strabotrechares must have occupied this position for a fairly long period of time, since he changed two boulloteria or two pairs of dies, and he maintained correspondence with Preslav throughout this period, possibly with Melias, the strategos of the city.

13 Ταγματοφύλαξ

The position ταγματοφύλαξ is unknown from the written sources and refers to a lower-ranking officer in the tagma under the command of the domestikos.

1079. Θεοφάνης Ἀργυρὸς ταγματοφύλαξ καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

Private collection. Found on the land of the village of Gornoslav, Asenovgrad region. D. 17-19 (13) 3 mm, 7.75 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 52.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΕΟ | ΦΑΝΗΣ | ΤΑΓΜΑΤ | ΦΥΛΑΞ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΣΧΑΡ | ΤΣΑΡ | ΟΥΟΑΡ | ΓΥΡΟ

+ Θεοφάνης ταγματ(ο)φύλαξ (καὶ) χαρτουλάρ(ι)ος ὁ Ἀργυρὸς

1080. Θεόδωρος Ν., ταγματοφύλαξ καὶ τοποτηρητής (X-XI c.)

Private collection (from Pernik). Documented on 19th January 2004. Find-spot: Ratsiaria. D. 20-20.5 (19?) 4 mm. Well-centered but incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Worn surface which renders the reading insecure.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Remains of an inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-ο || Δ-Ω-Ρ'

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟ | ΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΦ | ΛΑΚΙΣΤΙΠΟ | ΤΗΡΗΤΗΤΩ | . ΟΤΕΙ . |

- Ν . -

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδώρο ταγματοφυλάκι (καὶ) τ(ο)ποτηρητῇ τῷ
[Φ]οτει[α]νῷ

The family name is problematic. A lead seal of Demetrios Photianos is preserved in the Hermitage collection (M 2544) (see **Панченко**, *ИРАИК*, 13, № 308; **Шандровская**, *Поправки*, с. 113, № 308). We cannot be sure whether it refers to the same family. It is an interesting fact that seals containing a position unknown to date among the other Bulgarian seals is preserved in a small private collection.

14. Μονοστρατηγὸς

Until the mid-Xth c., the operational commanding was entrusted to the most senior of the respective commanders of corps, the domestikos of the scholai being most often favored among them. However, the army could also be led during some military campaigns by high-ranking officers who enjoyed the emperor's confidence and who received imperial mandate. The honor of enjoying the emperor's confidence was accompanied with the imposing title μονοστρατηγὸς or στρατηγὸς-αὐτοκράτωρ.

They were not presented in the taktika, since they were provisional, but on the other hand, the honored ones had other titles and offices high enough to ensure them a due place in the rank lists.

In the XIth c., a tendency has been observed for 'institutionalizing' of these types of commanding, which were formerly extraordinary.

Lit. **Златарски**, *История*, II, 2, 7-9; **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, 380-385; **Ahrweiler**, *Recherches*, p.57; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.344; **Idem**, *Evolution*, 143-144.

1081-1082. Μιχαήλ μονοστρατηγὸς (XI c.)

1081. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22936. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-26 (23) 3 mm. W. 12.85 g. Complete, but poorly preserved imprint. Chipped in its upper part, deeply corroded. Covered with lead oxides.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 193.

1082. Archaeological Museum, Nesebar, no.1784. Find-spot: the village of Sveti Vlas near Robinson restaurant on 16th April 2002. D. 28-29 (23) 3 mm. W. 1140 g. Complete but weak imprint. Covered with white patina.
Unpublished.
Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-Γ-Ε || Ω-Ρ-Γ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a. | ΤΩΣΩΔ8' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛΛ' | ΣΤΡΑΤΗ | - ΓΟ -

b. +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩΣΩΔ8' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛΛ' | ΣΤΡΑΤΗ | - ΓΟ -

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Μιχαήλ (πρωτο)στρατηγῷ

The second better preserved specimen solves the dilemma about the final letter in the third line which is certainly Α'=πρωτο, thus Michael's position must have been πρωτοστρατηγὸς. It is unknown from narrative sources. So we must refer back to the assumption already made that it is μονοστρατηγὸς, a commander of the army and not simply a strategos. For the attempt to be identified with a particular military commander from the chronicles, see no. 1083 below.

15. Ἀκολούθος

In the IXth-Xth centuries the akolouthos was the first assistant of the droungarios tes viglas. The position existed in the corps of the schools as proximos and in the corps of the exkoubitoi as protomandator. He is mentioned in connection with the foreign mercenaries in the corps of the arithmoi (*Oikonomides Listes*, p. 331). He is also mentioned in the book of the ceremonies along with his titular the droungarios tes viglas. He escorts high-ranking dignitaries during their reception in the Great Palace.

In the XIth c. the akolouthos obtained functions of an independent high-ranking officer in command of the palace guards of foreign mercenaries in connection with the transformation of the droungarios tes viglas from a military man into a judge.

He retained his name and functions in the subsequent centuries. He was a palace official occupying 51st place in the hierarchy under the dynasty of the Palaiologoi. He and his troops preceded the emperor during campaigns and entered in battles along with him. In addition to his military functions, diplomatic missions were also often entrusted to him (*Guilland, Recherches*, I, 522-524).

1083. Μιχαήλ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος . . . ἀκολούθος καὶ ἄνθρωπος τοῦ κρατεοῦ καὶ ἁγίου ἡμῶν βασιλέως (mid of the XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Nesebar, no. 1913. Found in Pomorie (ancient Anchialo) by Ivan Grozev Grozev from Burgas, Izgrev housing estate, bl. 41A, entr. 2, ap. 3. D. 22.5-25 (over 24) 3 mm. W. 10.24 g. Incomplete imprint, dented probably by a sharp object. Effaced, damaged letters. All that renders the reading uncertain.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five or six lines:

.. ΕΡ'Θ' ΤΩCΩΔ . | ΜΙΧΑ . | ΑΝΘΥΠ . | ΠΡΙΚΕ . | . . .

Rev. Inscription of five or six lines:

.. ΠΟ . . | . ΚΟΛΘΟ . . | . Α'ΝΟΤΚΡΑ | ΤΕ88ΑΓ8Η . | ΡΑCΙΛΕ | .

[+Κ(ύρι)]ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Μιχα[ήλ] ἀνθυπ[άτ(ω)] π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ)
κὲ . . . ἀ[κ]ολούθ[ω (καὶ)] ἀν(θρ)ό(που) τ(οῦ) κρατεοῦ (καὶ) ἁγ(ί)ου ἡ[μ(ῶν)]
βασιλέ(ως)

The overall reading of the text is impossible due to damage of the specimen. However, certain assumptions could be made because of the valuable information the seal offers.

The owner of the seal must have been a certain Michael anthypatos, patrikios, akolouthos and anthropos of the holy emperor. Taking into consideration the abbreviation ΠΠΙ the seal must be dated after 1050s.

An akolouthos from this time and by this name was attested in connection with the war against the Pechengs.

The name of Michael, patrikios and akolouthos, was first attested in 1050. After a succession of Roman defeats in the war against the Pechenegs in 1050 the emperor summoned the foreign mercenaries (Franks, Varangians and others), appointed patrikios Nikephoros Bryennios as their commander and dispatched them to Adrianoupolis to guard the settlements against the Pecheneg raids. The supreme leader of the whole army patrikios Michael akolouthos was also sent there (Μιχαήλ πατρίκιος ὁ Ἀκολούθος, see *Scylitzes*, 472.40-41) with the order not to engage the army in a large-scale battle but only to block

and repulse attacks. When he joined Bryennios, he (Michael) began his active operations. First, he came upon a Pecheneg unit in Goloes, routed and eliminated it. Then he met another detached company of Pechenegs at Toplitos (a fortress at Evros) and destroyed it whereupon the Pechenegs stopped plundering the settlements in the foothills of the Haemus and directed their entire zeal towards Macedonia. It was precisely in Macedonia near the town of Hariopolis that Bryennios and Michael ambushed the Pechenegs, took them by surprise in their camp during the night and killed them all. As Skylitzes concludes this misfortune stopped and frightened the Pechenegs. So in the fourth and fifth indictions they no longer raided with impunity as before, but sparingly (*Skylitzes*, 472-473).

Meanwhile Michael remained active. The Seljuk invasion began in 1052 in Asia Minor. They plundered and destroyed everything on their way. They captured Karse and invaded Iberia. Michael Akolouthos was dispatched against them at the head of the troops of Franks and Varangians. His arrival there awed the sultan of the Seljuks and they retreated (*Skylitzes*, 474-475).

In 1053 the Pechenegs were again on the agenda. After the above successful military actions in 1053 the emperor was encouraged and assembled troops from all parts, east and west, confiding them to patrikios Michael akolouthos. He also ordered Basil the Synkellos to take command of the Bulgarian forces and sent them both out against the Pechenegs. When they heard of this they erected a palisade near Great Preslav fortified with a deep moat and stockades. When the Romans arrived they enclosed themselves inside and withstood the ensuing siege. Since the Romans were wasting their time achieving nothing worthy of note, also that they were running short of the necessities of life, they held a conference to consider what they should do. They decided to return home so at midnight in silence as they were ordered they opened the gates and abandoned the camp. This did not escape the notice of Tyrach who learning about their attempt to get away led an enormous host out of the palisade and sent it to the passes the Romans would go through while attacking them as they came out. There was a terrible rout of the Romans: some were overtaken and slain by pursuers, others were captured by those who had taken up positions along the difficult routes. A large number fell including the Synkellos while the rest along with Michael found refuge in Adrianoupolis.

The events around this defeat were also described by Attaleiates without mentioning the names of the military commanders. However, he provided a number of details explaining the defeat.

Is it possible to identify patrikios Michael Akolouthos with the owner of the one or two groups of seals described above?

It is quite possible. Akolouthos is a sobriquet in Skylitzes but it is more likely that it was Michael's effective position. Guilland assumes the same possibility (see *Recherches*, I, p. 523). We are left with the impression that he was entrusted with the command of the palace guards of Varangians and Franks, i.e. functions of the akolouthos, especially taking into consideration the expedition to Iberia.

In the first group of seals he is anthypatos, patrikios, akolouthos and anthropos of the emperor. The inscription on the seal describes him as the emperor's confidant, ἄνθρωπος τοῦ κρατεοῦ καὶ ἁγίου ἡμῶν βασιλέως, and as such he was entrusted with the command of the palace guards of foreign mercenaries, i.e. he was in his capacity as akolouthos. The seal reports facts unknown from other sources and his being an anthypatos is not surprising. He must have had the rank of patrikios anthypatos. What is new is ἄνθρωπος, which explains why such an important unit of the army, the palace guards, was confined to him.

In the second group he is protostrategos. Clearly this refers to monostrategos, commander-in-chief, known from the literary sources.

Michael was entrusted with the command of the army twice during the war against the Pechenegs: of the whole army in 1050 and of the troops from east and west in 1053. Later this distinction was recorded on seals as all the West or all the East. However, this position had not existed yet at this period and was covered by protostrategos. It is a high rank for which reason the rest of Michael's titles were not reported on his seals. It is quite possible that it was precisely this Michael who was covered by the second group of seals one of which discovered in Preslav.

16. Οπλιτάρχης.

1084. Δημήτριος Ἀπόκαυκος. . . . (XI c.)

Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov, Elkhovo). Deposited by the police in the National Historical Museum, Sofia. Dim. 25-26 mm. Weak and poorly preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Melnitsa, no. 18.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St Michael holding scepter (r. hand) and globus cruciger (l. hand). Circular inscription along a border of dots: . ΕΡΟΗΘΙ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

-ο-| +ΔΙ | ΜΗΤΡΙ | ΟΛΙΑΠ | ΚΑΥ.

[+ Κ(ύρι)]ε βοήθι Διμητρί(ο) Ἀπ(ο)καύ[κ(ω)]

The Dumbarton Oaks Collection contains a seal of Demetrios Apokaukos, patrikios and archegetes of the West. It bears the same iconographic subject and it is probable that both groups of seals belonged to the same person. According to its publishers, (see **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, no 1.3) the office of archegetes was equivalent to that of ὀπλιτάρχης. This suggested to me that the letters ΟΛΙ in the third line might be associated with this office.

Another seal of Demetrios Apokaukos as strategos dating from the third quarter of the XIth c. is preserved in the collection of L. Zarnitz (**Seibt-Zarnitz**, no 2.34). The obverse features St. Demetrios standing holding a spear and a shield.

The same depiction is found on another group of seals bearing the name of Demetrios Apokaukos as a private person according to a seal at DO. 58. 106. 4288. We cannot say with any certitude whether they all belonged to one and the same person. They are dated to the third quarter of the XIth c.

17. Unrelated to Particular Military Corps

a) πρόξιμος

An officer of the lower ranks (ranking fifth in the tagmata) who was entrusted with the command of the mandatores (the couriers), through which he passed the orders of the domestikos to his officers of lower ranks. Since the office was very low in rank, its last

mention is in the taktikon of Philotheos (899, see **Oikonomides**, *Listes*. Ph 111.3).

Lit. **Guilland**, *Recherches*, I, p. 433; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, p.330; *ODB*, 1751.

1085. Μιχαήλ σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ πρόξιμος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Found in the course of archaeological excavations of the church by the tomb of Mostich in the Selishte locality in Preslav in 1987. D. 25-27 (22)3 mm. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint. The bulla itself is in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons up to the second arms. Its base is not printed or preserved.

Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ MIX| AIA CΠ| AΘ'KANA| IA'SA'EI| .

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τ[ῷ] σ[ῷ] δούλ[ῳ] Μιχαὶλ σπαθ(αρο)κανδιδ(άτῳ) (καὶ) (πρό)ξι[μ(ω)]

The Dumbarton Oaks Collection contains an unpublished seal (DO. 55. 1. 2033) of a dignitary by the same name and office but of a higher title.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. +ΚΕΡ'Θ'| MIXAHA| A'CΠAΘ'| ΣΠΡΟΞ| Μ'

I cannot say with certainty whether it applies to the same individual. The differences are not only in the office, but also in the iconographic subject.

So far, there have been some unclear points regarding the interpretation of the text of the seal. First of all, I have to say that the seals of individuals bearing that title are rather rare and there are two cases when one person is concerned. Secondly, the fact that this dignitary had a quite high rank, initially spatharokandidatos and later protospatharios. The following question arises: were there any essential changes in the office that had brought it to the fore in the XIth c.? In this connection, helpful is the information of a marginal note from 1007/1008 to an Armenian Gospel written in Adrianoupolis to order of Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ πρόξιμος of the doux Τ'οτ'orakanos (see here the seals of Θεόδωροκάνος, πατρίκιος καὶ δούξ Ἀδριανουπόλεως, no. 1107).

The owner of the seal, whose correspondence was received in Preslav, was, to make it sound up-to-date, a chief of the signals of the imperial tagmata as a whole, and it is a well known fact that in the XIth c. the role of the tagmata increased at the expense of the thematic troops.

b) τοποτηρητής

1085A. Βάρδας Κρατερὸς τοποτηρητής (XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-21 (19-20) 4 mm, W.10.02 g. Incomplete imprint with a perfectly-preserved surface.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*. no. 384.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin, holding Christ on l. arm. Sigla: \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$: Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ' | ΤΩCΩΔ. | .ΑΡΔ'ΤΟ. | .ΗΡΗΤ. | .WKP. | ΤΕ..

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)[θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δ[ού(λ)ω] Β]άρδ(α) το[π(ο)τ]ηρητ(ῆ) [τ](ῷ)

Κρ[α]τε[ρῷ]

1086. Βασίλειος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητής (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14651. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 17-17 (18 ?) 2 mm. W. 3.90 g. Incomplete imprint, seemingly subsequently trimmed and rounded.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 273.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand). Remains of a circular inscription: CΩΔ....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ RAC. | Λ'Ρ'Α'CΠ. | Θ'STOΠ. | TIPIT

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ]σῷ δ[ούλ)ω] Βασ[ι]λ(εί)ω β'(πρωτο)σπ[α]θ(αρί)ω (καὶ)

τοπ[ο]τιριτ(ῆ)

1087. Ἰωάννης τοποτηρητής (VI-VII c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest (the former Banescu's collection). Find-spot: uncertain, principally from Silistra and its region. D. 24-27 (23) 6-7 mm. Well-printed and well-preserved bulla.

Ed. **Banescu**, *Colectia inedite*, no 2.

No exact parallels.

Obv. Eagle with open wings, between which an invocalional monogram (pl. I.5).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΙΩ | ANNOV | ΤΟΠΟΤ | ΗΡΗΤ | ΟΥ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθη Ἰωάννου τοποτηρητοῦ

The dating of this type of seals should not exceed the VIIth c.

The office of John needs to be reconsidered, since there is no specification on his seal whose topoteretes he was. Regarding the office of the topoteretes, it was noted above that he was a prime assistant of the domestikos of the separate tagma, he was in command of the units of the respective corps located in the province and during military campaigns he was subordinate to the titular and the other chiefs ranking higher than him. The earliest attestation of the office domestikos in his capacity as a military commander is from the VIIIth c., but it is assumed that it was established as a result of the reforming activity of Leo III (717-740). It had undoubtedly existed with similar functions prior to that period. We do not know the exact functions of the topoteretes during that period, but they were presumably similar to the later ones.

The discovery in Dristra of the bulla of the topoteretes John from the VIIth c. is quite logical: he could have been a chief of a unit of the tagmata located here in their winter quarters, or, if during hostilities, he could have been in this part of the Empire under the command of his titular and his correspondence may have been in connection with some

immediate tasks. In any case, the receipt of his correspondence in Dristra in the VIIth c. must have been in connection with the attempts of the Empire to block the nomadic incursions from the North including also those of the proto-Bulgarians.

1088. Ἰωάννης Ἄγγελος σεβαστός καὶ μέγας πριμικήριος (XII c.)

Private collection. It was handed over to me for documentation by V. Panteleev from Varna. According to its actual owner, the seal comes from the Stara Zagora region. D. 39-41 (34) mm. W. 31.5 g. Imprint in a superb state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 3.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore standing with long curly beard and nimbus, wearing a military tunic. He props himself with r. hand on a long spear while in his l. hand he holds a shield, resting on the ground. Vertical inscription on either side: Θ-ΘΕ-ΟΔ-Ω-ΡΟC || Ο-ΤΗ-ΡΩ-Ν

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΤΟΝΑ: | ΓΓΕΛΟΝΜΕCΕ | RACTONΙΩΑΝΗΝ | ΜΕΓΑΝΠΙΡΙ | ΜΙΚΙΡΙΟΝΑ |

ΘΛΗΤΑΚΕ | - ΠΟΙC -

+ Τὸν Ἄγγελον με σεβαστὸν Ἰωάννην μέγαν πριμικίριον ἀθλητὰ σκέποις

1089. Ἀνδρόνικος Λαπαρδᾶς σεβαστός καὶ χαρτουλάριος (1166-1183)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15162. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D. 30.5-32.5 (29) 3.5 mm. W. 18.60 g. A good and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 379A; **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 274.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with the medallion of Christ on her chest. Sigla: M-P || ΘΥ: Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

СΦΡΑΓΙC | ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚ8 | CΕΡΑΤΟΝΚΑΙ | ΧΑΡΤΟΝΛΑΡΙ | ΟΥΤΟΝΛΑ |

ΠΑΡΔΑ

Σφραγὶς Ἀνδρονίκου σεβαστοῦ καὶ χαρτουλαρίου τοῦ Λαπαρδᾶ

On the career and person of Andronikos Lapardas, see **Stiernon, L.** *Theodora Comnene et Andronic Lapardas, sebastes*. -*REB*, XXIV, 1966, 89-96; **Laurent, V.** *Legendes sigillographiques et familles byzantines*. -*EO*, 31, 1932, 338-344, XI; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, nos. 2735 and 2735bis.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

A. With toponyms

1. Ἀβύδος

1100. Νικήτας β'στράτορ, τουρμάρχης καὶ παραφύλαξ Ἀβύδος (mid-IXth c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad provided it for documentation). It is of unknown provenance and in all probability originates from Southern Bulgaria (the southern regions of the Nova Zagora or Stara Zagora districts). D.29-29.9 (28) 3 mm. The imprint on the obverse is weaker and shallower. Bulla in a perfect state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.1.1.

No parallels are known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl.I.8). In the quarters: ΤΩ-ΣΩ||Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΝΙΚΗΤΑ | Ρ'ΣΤΡΑ'Τ8 | ΡΜΑΡΧ'ΣΠΑΡ | ΦΝΛ'ΑΡΝΔ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Νικήτᾳ β'στρά(τορι) τουρμάρχ(η) (καὶ)
παρ(α)φύλ(ακι) Ἀβύδ(ου)

1101. Ἰωάννης Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ κομμερκίαριος Ἀβύδου (XIth centuries)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15447. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 23-24 (?) 4 mm. W. 5.92 g. Good imprint but certain letters remained outside the blank or were effaced, which renders the overall reading difficult.

Unpublished

Parallels: DO. 55. 1. 3120 (Nesbitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, 3, no. 40.15). Struck in a same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion before her breast. Visible in the medallion is the nimbus with cross of Christ. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ: Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | . ΩΑ'ΣΠΑΘ' | ΕΠ'Τ8ΧΓΚΛ | SK8ΜΕΡΚ' | ΑΡ'ΑΡΙΑ'Τ'|.ΡΟΜΙΑ'

Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) [Ι] ω(άννη) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπ(ι) τοῦ
χρ(υσοτρι)γκλ(ίνου) (καὶ) κουμερκ(ιαρίω) Ἀβίδ(ου) τ(ῷ) [Κ]ρομιδᾶ or
[Κ]ρομίδη

The patronym Χιονίδης was proposed in the above parallel. The initial letter on our specimen is not preserved but resembles X or K, the next is certainly Ρ,Ο and ΜΙΑ' recording perhaps Κρομιδᾶς or Κρομίδης. For a similar name, see *PLP*, no.13834, 13836.

2. Ἀγχιάλου

1102-1104. Βάρδας πρωτοπαπᾶς καὶ β'κουράτωρ Ἀγχιάλου (XIth century)

1102. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17215. D. 25-26(19)2 mm. W. 8.06 g. A partial imprint, reused on another bulla.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.2.1a.

1103. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 16685. D. 14-26(19)3.6 mm. Half of a good imprint, reused on another bulla.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.2.1b.

1104. Private collection. Find-spot: most probably Preslav. An excellent imprint and a well preserved specimen. D.26-28 mm.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.2.1c

1105. Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: most probably Preslav. An excellent imprint and a well-preserved specimen. This allows some emendations in the previous reading of the monogram. D.21-25 (19) 3 mm. W.6.10 g.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.2.1d.

All four specimens were from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl.I.10). In the quarters: ΤΩ-ΘΩ||Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) . . . AP | . . Α'ΠΑΠ | . . R'K8PA | ΤΟΡΙΑΧΕ | ΛΟΝ

b) . . . AP | . . . ΠΑΠ | . . . K8PA | . . . AXΕ | . . V

c) + RAP | ΔΑΑ'ΠΑΠ | ASR'K8PA | ΤΟΡΙΑΧΕ | ΛΟΝ

d) + RAP | ΔΑΑ'ΠΑΠ | ASR'K8PA | . ΟΡΙΑΧ . | ΛΟΝ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Βάρδα (πρωτο)παπᾶ (καὶ) β'κουράτορι Ἀχελου

3. Ἀδριανούπολεως

1106. Χριστοφόρος ὑπάτος καὶ κουμμερκιάριος Ἀδριανουπόλεως (822-823)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 25915. Found in the medieval stronghold near the village of Matochina, district of Svilengrad (Boukelon). D. 26.8-28.9 mm; field over 27 mm; thickness 3 mm. The blank was too small for the die and therefore the imprint was incomplete. Some portions of the representation and inscription are out of the blank. Specimen in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов-Аладжов**, *Хасково*, I, № 8; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3.1.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, I, no. 283. Republished by: **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, no. 44.5.

Obv. Busts of two emperors of equal height (Michael II with rounded beard on l. and Theophilos beardless on r.) both wearing crowns surmounted with a cross and a chlamys; in the field between them, a cross and the sign of indiction A beneath.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΧΡ.. | ΤΟΦΟΡ'.. | SKOMMEP. | ΑΔΡΙΑΝΟ | ΠΟΛΕΟ

+ Χρ[ι]σ[τ]οφόρ(ου) [ὑ]π[ό] (άτου) [καὶ] κομμερ[κ]ιάριου [Ἀδριανο(υ)πό]λεο(ς)

1107. Θεοδωροκάνος πατρίκιος καὶ δούξ Ἀδριανουπόλεως (1000-1006)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17601. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 29-33 (25) 3.5 mm, W. 22.70 g. Incomplete imprint. Because of the loosing of the dies and the boulloterion, there is a space of about 5 mm between the image and the text. The imprint itself has been perfectly preserved.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 194; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3.2

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Γ-Ε || Ο-Ρ-ΓΙ-Ο'. A circular inscription along the dotted border: +Κ.ΡΟΗΘΙΤΩΘΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. ΘΕΟ |.ΟΡΟΚΑΝ' |.ΑΤΡΙΚΙΟC | ΚΕΔΟΝΕΑ | ΔΡΙΑΝΟΠ | ΟΛΙς

[+]Θεο[δ]οροκάν(ος) [π]ατρίκιος κέ δούξ Ἀδριανο(υ)πόλις

1108. Θεοφύλακτος ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, βέστης καὶ δούξ Ἀδριανουπόλεως (Xth-XIth cen.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, probably Preslav. D. 17-17.5 mm. Blank too small for die and therefore the imprint is incomplete.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3.3

Parallels: Nesbitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, 1, no. 44.1.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of five lines followed by ornament:

..... | .ΑΚ'ΑΝΘ. | Π'ΠΑΤ'ΡΕC | Τ'ΣΔ8ΞΑΔ | ΡΙΑΝ8Π'

[+Θεοφύλ]ακ(τος) ἀνθ[ύ](ατος) πατ(ρίκιος) βέστ(ης) (καὶ) δούξ Ἀδριανουπ(όλεως)

1109-1110. Συμεὼν βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Ἀδριανουπόλεως καὶ Μεσημβρίας (the 70s of the XIth century)

1109. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 24593. D. 18-19 (18 ?) 3 mm. W. 6.5 g. A good but incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3A.9a

1110. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 29630. D. 10-18 (18 ?) 3 mm. W. 6.5 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3A.9b.

Both specimens come from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Nicholas standing, blessing (r. hand) and holding the Gospels (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Ο-Α-ΓΙ-Ο-С || Ν-Ι-ΚΟ-Λ-Α-Ο'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a) . ΚΕΡ'Θ' |.VMEΩNRE |.APX'SKATE |.ΑΝΑΔΡΙΑΝ8 |.ΟΛΕCΟSMΕ |.HMRPIA

b) . . . R'Θ' |. . . ΩNRE | KATE | ΡΙΑΝ8 | SMΕ | ΡΙΑ

[+] Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) [Σ]υμεὼν βε[στ]άρχ(η) (καὶ) κατε[π]άν(ω)
'Αδριανου[π]όλεο(ς) (καὶ) Με[σ]ημβρία(ς)

4. Αἰγαῖον πελάγους

1111. Φίλιππος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τοῦ Αἰγαίου πελάγους (Xth century)

Plaster cast from the collection of Prof. T. Gerassimov made in 1956 in Burgas. Find-spot of the original: probably the region of Burgas. The current place where the original is preserved is unknown. Half of a whole specimen. D. 17-28 mm.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.4.1.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Along dotted border circular inscription beginning at I.: ΘΕΙ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..ΙΛΙΠ | ..CΠΑ | ..CTPA | ..T8EG | .. ΛΑΓ'
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Φιλίπ(π)[ω β'(πρωτο)]σπαθ(αρίω)
(καὶ)] στρα[τ(η)γ(ῶ)] τοῦ Εγ(αίου) [πε]λάγ(ους)

5. 'Αντιοχείας

1112. Μιχαήλ 'Ιασίτης μάγιστρος καὶ δοῦξ 'Αντιοχείας (?-1047)

RHM-Yambol, no. 6023. Found near the village of Melnitsa in the Gradishteto locality by Dimitar Neychev from Elhovo in 1992. D. 29-34 mm. A fragment of a triangular shape.
Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no.39; Jordanov, G. Names, no.6.1; Jordanov, F. Names, no.240.
Parallels: Cheynet, Zacos, III, no. 40; Cheynet, J.-Cl. Les ducs d'Antioche sous Michael IV et Constantin IX, Novum Millenium. Studies on Byzantine History and Culture dedicated to Paul Speck, 19 December 1999, Ashgate, 2001, 53-63.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of eight lines:

..ΕΡ. | ..CΩΔ. | ...ΑΗΛ | ...CTPΩ | ...CTPΩ | .. 8K'ANT | ..HACT. | ..ACITH
[+Κ(ύρι)]ε βο(ή)[θ(ει) τῷ] σῷ δ[ούλ(ω) Μιχ]αήλ [μαγ(ί)]στρω [(καὶ) δουκ(ί)
'Αντ(ι)[οχ]ήας τ[ῷ] 'Ιασίτη

6. 'Ανατολικῶν

1113. Βαλάντιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν 'Ανατολικῶν (IXth-Xth centuries)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest, Romania. Found in the Silistra region. Good though incomplete imprint. D. 25-26 mm.
Ed. Banescu, O colectia, no. 6; Jordanov, G. Names, no.8.1.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).
Vertical inscription in two columns: O-A-Γ' || N-I-K' Along a dotted border circular inscription: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΡΑΛΑ. | ΤΗΩΡ'Α'C | ΑΘ'SCTPA | ΗΓΟΤ'ΑΝ | ΑΤΟΛΙΚΟ | ΝΑΜΙ.
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Βαλα[v]τήω β'(πρωτο)σ[π]αθ(αρίω) (καὶ)
στρα[τ]ηγο τ(ὸν) 'Ανατολικον ἀμ[ι]ν

1114-1117. Διογένης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν 'Ανατολικῶν (971-?)

1114. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22194. D. 24-24.5 (19) 3 mm, 10.62 g. Incomplete imprint, parts of the dies with the image and the text have not survived. A well-preserved imprint but covered with lead oxides.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.8.2a

1115. Private collection. It was offered for purchase by the Historical Museum in Stara Zagora where I documented it. D. 23-23 (19) 2.5 mm. An incomplete imprint of irregular round or rather rhomb-like form.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.8.2b

1116. RHM-Shumen, no. 14963. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Dulovo region. D. 22-25 (19) 3mm. W. 10.94 g. Complete and well-centered imprint. The rev. is damaged with a blade, perhaps the adze of the finder.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 275.

1117. RHM-Shumen, no.15037/3. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 25-25 mm. W. 12.72 g. Imprint in a poor state of preservation. The restoration of the text is on the basis of the above specimen.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 276.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps; on either side, fleuron arising from the base. Along dotted border circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

÷ - | +ΔΗΟ | ΓΕΝ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'SCTP . . | ΤΟΝΑΝΑ . | ΛΗΚ'
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Διογέν(η) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ)
στρατ(ηγῶ) τὸν 'Ανα[τ(ο)]ληκ(ῶν)

1118. Λέων Μελισσινός πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν 'Ανατολικῶν (the 70s-80s of the Xth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 13578. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-28 (over 25) 1.5 mm. W. 4.86 g. The blank and the imprint were rather thin and the bulla is poorly preserved.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 201; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 8.3; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 458; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 277
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

..Ε.. | ..ΕΙΤ | .CΩΔ | .ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.. ΩΝ. | ΠΑΤΡΙΚ.. | SCTPATHΓ | Τ'ΑΝΑΤ... | Τ'ΜΕΛ... | ..
[+Κ(ύρι)]ε [βοήθ]ει τ[ῶ] σῶ δ[ού]λῳ Λέων[τ(ι) πατρικ[ίῳ] (καὶ) στρατηγ(ῶ)
τ(ῶν) Ἀνατ[ολ(ι)κ(ῶν)] τ(ῶ) Μελ[ιστηνῶ]

7. Ἀρκαδιούπολεως

1119-1121. Λέων β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν καὶ βασιλικὸς Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως (last quarter of the Xth century)

1119. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22979. D. 22.5-23 (15) 3 mm, 6.89 g. The reverse and obverse sides do not coincide due to looseness of the boulloterion.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 202; Jordanov, G. Names, no.10.1a.

1120. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20281. D. 21-25 (15) 2 mm. W. 6.89 g. The reverse and obverse sides do not coincide due to looseness of the boulloterion.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 203; Jordanov, G. Names, no.10.1b.

1121. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 26476. The imprint is badly preserved and it is rolled up or it is tubular with an upper piece cut. W. 5.20 g.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 204; Jordanov, G. Names, no.10.1c.

All three specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).
Vertical inscription in two columns: O-A-Γ|| N-I-KO'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΛΕΩΝ | Ρ'ΣΠΑΘΚΑ | ΝΔ' ΕΠΙΤΟ | Κ'ΣΡ'ΑΡ | ΚΑΔΙ | Π'
+ Λέων β' σπαθ(αρο)κανδ(ιδά)τος ἐπὶ τ(ῶν) ο(ί)κ(ει)ακ(ῶν) (καὶ) β(ασι)λικ(ὸς)
Ἀρκαδι(ου)π(ό)λεως

1122. Κατακαλὼν σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ τουρμάρχης Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως (the last quarter of Xth century)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 101. D. 25-27 (24) 3 mm. W. 14.75 g. The reverse and obverse sides do not coincide due to looseness of the boulloterion.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 205; Jordanov, G. Names, no.10.2

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hand raised before her. Sigla: MP || ΘV. Along dotted border circular inscription:ΤΟCΟΔ..Ο

Rev. Inscription of five lines preceded by decoration:

- ∴ - | ΚΑΤΑ Κ' | .ΠΘΑΚΑΝΔ' | ..ΤΟΚ'ΤΩ | ΜΑΡΑΡΚ' | ΔΙ8ΠΟ'
+ Θ(εο)τόκε βοήθει τ[ο] σο δ[ούλ]ο Κατακ(α)λ(ῶν) [σ]παθ(αρο)κανδ(ι)[δά]το
κ(αὶ) τωρμάρχ(η) Ἀρκ(α)διουπό(λε)ως

1123-1124. Ἀντρονίκος διοικητὴς καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως καὶ

Μεσημβρίας (the last quarter of the Xth century)

1123. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20176. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-27 (21?) 3-4 mm. W. 9.85 g. A good imprint but in a poor state of preservation. It is deeply corroded and broken.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 206; Jordanov, G. Names, no.10.3a.

1124. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18559. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-22 (21?) 2.5 mm. W. 6.95 g. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller in diameter than the dies.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 207; Jordanov, G. Names, no.10.3b.

The two specimens were from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

a) + ΚΕΡ. | ΗΘ'ΤΩCΩ| Δ'ΑΝΤΡΟ | ΝΙΚ'Δ8 | Κ..

b) . ΚΕΡ. | . . ΤΩ . . | . . ΝΤΡΟ | . Κ'Δ8 | ...

Rev. Vertical inscription of five lines:

a). Κ.. ΕΚ | Π.ΟCΩΠ' | ΑΡΚΑΔΙ8 | ΠΟΛ'ΣΜΕ | CHMRPI | ..

b). | . . ΟCΩΠ' | . . ΚΑΔ . . | . ΟΛ'ΣΜ. | CHMR .. | ..

+ Κ(ύρι)]ε β[ο]ήθ(ει) τῶ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Ἀντρονίκ(ω) δ(ι)ουκ[ήτ(η)] κ[αὶ] ἐκ
[π]ροσώπ(ου) Ἀρκαδιουπόλ(εως) (καὶ) Μεσημβρί[ας]

Antronikos was actually ek prosopo of two strategoi, of Thrace and Messembria, which suggests dating to the period when they were in existence. In this connection, dating to the last quarter of the Xth c. is plausible, see nos. 1505-1509 here.

1125. Λέων Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως καὶ Μεσημβρίας (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 29210. Found during excavations of the so-called Administrative Building in Preslav under the supervision of T. Mihailova, sector C, square 13, by the path, on 5th June 2006. D. 22-26 (21) 2.1 mm. W. 6.24 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Broken into two parts. Fragment missing. All that renders the reading difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | Δ8 | . . Λ . ΩΝ | . . ΑΘ' | - . -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. ΕΚ | ΠΡΟC . ΑΡ | . ΑΔΙ . . | . ΜΕCΙ . . | . Τ | Κ

+ Κ(ύρι)]ε β(ο)ήθ(ει) [τῶ σῶ] δού[λῳ] Λ[έ]ων [(πρωτο)σπ]αθ(αρίῳ) [(καὶ)] ἐκ
[π]ροσώ[π(ου)] Ἀρ[κ]αδι[ου]π(ό)λεως (καὶ) Μεσι[μβρ(ί)ας] τ[ῶ] κ

The reading of the toponyms is to a certain extent influenced by the existence of another ek prosopo of this union, see nos.1123-1124 above. The reading of the patronym inscribed in the last two lines is impossible.

8. Ἀρμενιοκοὶ

1126. Κωνσταντῖνος Ἀνεμᾶς σπαθᾶριος καὶ ἐπισκεπτίτης Ἀρμενιακοῦ (Xth-XIth c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot uncertain. D. 19-20 (18) 3.5 mm. W. 8.2 g. Incomplete imprint which has been perfectly preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no.11.1; **Jordanov, F. Names**, no.35.

Parallels: DO. 55. 1. 2904 (see **Nesbitt, McGeer and Oikonomides, DOS**, 4, no. 22.14). Imprinted with the same boulloterion. Two other copies are known in which the title of spatharios is missing. One is kept at the Athens Museum of Numismatics (see **Konstantinopulos, Stamoules**, no.66) while the other has been found in the fortress near the village of Nufarul, district of Tulcea, Romania (see **Barnea, Ponica**, 16, 1983, 267-268, no. 4).

Obv. Inscription of five lines, preceded and followed by decorations:

—⋈— | .. ΕΡ'Θ' | . CΩΔ8 | . ΩNCTA | . TINCP | . ΘAPI. |

Rev. Inscription of five lines, a decoration above:

—⋈— | ΣΕΠΙC | ΚΕΠ'ΑΡΜ | ΕΝΙΑΚ. | ΤΟΑΝ. | -.-

[Θ(εοτό)κ]ε β(οή)θ(ει) [τῶ] σῶ δού(λω) [Κ]ωνστα[ν]τίν(ω) σπ[α]θαρί[ω]
(καὶ) ἐπισκεπ(τίτη) Ἀρμενιακ[οῦ] το Ἀν[εμᾶ]

9. Ἀρτακης

1127. Σωτηρήχος παραφύλαξ Ἀρτακης (first half of the IX c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to the collection of RHM-Shumen in December 2007).

Find-spot: disc. of Haskovo. D. 23-26 (24) 3.5 mm. W. 12.64 g. Once a good imprint. Now chipped. The surface is covered with porous patina or oxide. Folded at the striking.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Part from a cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5). In the quarters:

ΤΩ-CΩ | .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

CΩΤΙ | .ΙΧΩΠΑ | . ΑΦVΛΑΚ | ΑΡΤΑΚ | .

+ Θετόκε βοήθει τῶ σῶ [δ]ούλω Σωτι[ρ]ίχῳ πα[ρ]αφύλακ(ι) Ἀρτακ[ι]

10. Ἀσίας

1128. Ἀποθήκης τῶν ἀνδραπόδων Ἀσίας (694-695)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-29 (?) 6 mm. Incomplete imprint but well- preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no.12.1

No parallels known.

Obv. Justinian II standing, wearing a stemma, divitision and chlamys, and holding an orb with a cross in r. hand. Inscription around the image: ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ ΑΠΩΝΙΑΤΩΝ = Γεωργίου ἀπὸ ὑπάτων

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΠΟΘΗ | .HCTΩN | ΑΝΔΡΑΠ | .ΔΩNACH |.....

[Ἀ]ποθή[k]ης τῶν ἀνδραπ[ό]δων Ἀσή[ας]

1129. Τὰ βασιλικά κομμέρκια Ἀσίας (755-756 or 770-771)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 12. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-28.5 (28) 5 mm. W. 26.19 g. Blank too small for die, therefore the imprint is incomplete. The surface of the seal is in an excellent state of preservation. The blank has a trapezoid shape.

Ed. **Schlumberger**, *Inedite*, no. 149; **Лихачев**, *Датированные*, с. 203; **Мушмов**, *Печати*, № 5; **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, p.166, no. 8; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 12.2.

No parallels known.

Obv. Two imperial busts: Constantine V (l.), bearded, and Leo IV, beardless (r.), both wearing chlamyses and crowns; no remains of inscription.

Rev. Bust of Leo III wearing a crown, divitision and loros; the upper part of the reverse is out of the blank; below, an inscription of four lines:

. ΩNBACIAIK | .NKoMME.. |.ΩNACI |

[Τῶν βασιλικ[ῶ]ν κομμε[ρκί]ων Ἀσί[ας] Ἰ(νδικτιων) ?]

In the publication which includes the description of V. Dobruski, the emperors are considered to be Theophilos, Michael and Constantine and the seal is dated to the IXth century. But in the later publications the emperors are assumed to be Constantine V, his father and his son, and this is more acceptable. Unfortunately, the indiction, which could be conducive to a more precisely dating, is not inscribed on the specimen.

11. Βασπρακανίας

1130-1133. Βασίλειος Ἀποκάπης βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Βασπρακανίας (?-1064)

1130. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 394. Found during archeological excavations at the "Krumov dvoretz", sq. 178, depth 0. 20 m, above the brick flooring on 28th April 1979. D. 33.5-34 mm; field 28 mm; thickness 5 mm. Incomplete imprint because the blank slipped off the boulloterion.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, nos.14.1a; **Jordanov, Family Names**, no.40.

1131. RHM-Silistra, no. 77. Find-spot: near the village of Malka Popina, district of Silistra, in 1988. D. 17-36.5 mm; field 28mm; thickness 2.5 mm. Half of what was probably a good specimen.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, nos.14.1b; **Jordanov, Family Names**, no.41.

1132. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, probably northeastern Bulgaria. D. 29-31 mm; field 28 mm; thickness 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. About a third is out of the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, nos.14.1c; **Jordanov, Family Names**, no.42.

1133. RHM-Shumen, no.15051. Purchased from Georgi Krasimirov from Novi Pazar. Find-spot: Pliska? Half of what was once a good imprint. D. 18-33 (30) 4.8 mm. W. 12.40 g. Struck in the same boulloterion with the previous three specimens.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no 278.

The four specimens are struck with the same die.

Parallels: Two other specimens from same die are preserved in the collections of the Hermitage (M-2897, see Шандровская, Вазпуракан, 157-158, зам. 36; Zacos, III, see: Grünbart, Apokapes, 35-36; Cheynet, Zacos, III, no. 116. Another specimen struck in a different boulloterion or die is preserved in the same Zacos' collection. See Grünbart, Apokapes, S.36.

Obv. St. Basil standing, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).

Vertical inscription in two columns: O-A-Π-O-C || R :Ο ἅγιος Β[ασίλειος]

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

1130 ..ΕΡ'Θ' | . . . ΙΛΕΙΩ | . . . ΣΤΑΡΧΗΣ | . . . ΤΕΠΑΝΩΡΑ | . . . ΣΠΡΑΚΑΝ' |

ΑΣΤΩΑΠΟ | ΚΑΠΟΙ

1131 ..ΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑΣΙΑΕ. . . | . ΕΣΤΑΡ. . . | . . . ΤΕΠΑΝ. . . | . . . ΠΡΑΚ. . . | .

ΣΤΩΑ. . . | ΚΑΠ..

1132 | ΡΑΣΙ | . ΕΣΤΑ | . . . ΕΠΑΝ | . . . ΡΑΚ | .

ΣΤΩΑ . . . |

1133 | | | ΑΝΩΡΑ | ΑΚΑΝ' |

ΩΑΠΟ | . ΑΠΟΙ | - : -

[+Κ(ύρι)]ε βοήθει Βασιλείω [β]εστάρχη (καὶ) [κα]τεπάνω
Βα[α]σπρακαν(ί)ας τῷ Ἀποκάποι

12. Βάρνας

1134. Ἀσωτης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Βάρνας (?-1064)

Private collection (Prof. Dr. W. Seibt, Vienna). Originated from Bulgaria. D. 25-29 (22.5) mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Seibt, Geographie Bulgariens, no.1; Jordanov, G. Names, no.15.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. A full-length figure of a warrior saint (St. Procopius) with a nimbus. His right arm rests on a long lance while his left one holds a shield resting on the ground. Vertical inscription: O-A-Π-O-C || Π . Ρ-ΟΚ-Ο-Π'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗ | ΘΕΙΑΣΟΤΗΩ | ΠΡΩΠΑΝΘΝΙΑ | ΤΩΣΤΡΑΤ'Γ' | ΡΑΡΝΑC

+ Κ(ύρι)]ε βοήθει Ἀσοτή π(ατ)ρι(κίω) ἀντυπάτω (καὶ) στρατ(η)γ(ῶ)

Βάρνας

13. Βελικίας

1135. Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Βελικίας (?) (last quarter of the Xth century)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Originates from the region of Smyadovo. D. 19-20 (over 20) 3.5 mm. W. 9.04 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.17.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons on three steps, which seems to be inverted and the steps are above. Partial inscription around the image:CΩΔΟΝΑ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ...ΠΡ. | ..CΠASC | ..AT' ΡΕΔ | ...

[+Κ(ύρι)]ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ[ω]] πρ[ωτο]σπα(θαρίω) (καὶ)

σ[τρ]ατ(ηγῶ) Βελ[ικί(ας)]

14. Βερόης

1136-1143. Ἀνδρόνικος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Βερόης (970-971-?)

A) στρατηγὸς Βερόης

1136-1140. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav (see Йорданов, Преслав, № 208-212; Jordanov, G. Names, no.18.1Aa-e.)

1141. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22252. Found in the embankment of the southern inner city of Preslav on 4th April 1984. D. 25-27 mm; field 17 mm; thickness 3 mm. Complete imprint but badly preserved.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.18.1Af.

All six specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.18). In the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+AN | ΔΡΩΝΗ | ΚΩСТΡΑ | ΤΙΓΩΡΕ | ΡΟΙC

+Κ(ύρι)]ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλω Ἀνδρωνήκω στρατιγῶ Βερόις

B) πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Βερόης

1142. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17640. D. 26-26.5(21)2 mm, 7.26 g. Incomplete imprint but well-preserved.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.18.1Ba

1143. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18080. D. 23-26(21)3 mm, 10.75 g. Incomplete imprint. Almost half of the text is missing but the imprinted letters are distinct. In the middle the blank has been perforated by corrosion.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.18.1Bb

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ- ΝΚ | :Ο ἅγιος Ν(ι)κ(ό)[λα(ος)]. Along border of dots circular inscription: ..Ε.ΤΩ.....

Rev. Vertical inscription in four lines:

ΑΝΔΡΟΝ | .ΚΟΑ'СΠΑΘ | ΑΡSCTPAT | .ΓΡΕΡΟΗ

[+Κ(ύρι)]ε[βοήθει] τῷ [σῷ δούλω] Ἀνδρον[ί]κο (πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίω) (καὶ)

στρατ[η]γ(ῶ) Βερόης(ς)

15. Βουλγαρίας

1144. Βασίλειος μοναχός, σύγγελλος καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Βουλγαρίας (1048-?)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 15028. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 30-31 mm; field 25 mm; thickness 3 mm. A well-preserved specimen, but imprint is incomplete.
Ed. Йорданов, *Силистра*, I, № 4; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no.19.1
Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, II, no. 959.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΡΑCΙΛΕΙΩ | ΜΟΝΑΧ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΥΓΕΛΛ' | .ΑΝΑΓΡ' | .ΕΙΡ8Λ | .ΑΡΙΑC

+ Θ(εοτό)κεκε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δο(ύλῳ) Βασιλείῳ μοναχ(ῶ), [σ]υγ(κ)έλλ(ω) [(καὶ)] ἀναγρ(α)[φ]εὶ Βουλ[γ]αρίας

1145. Νικήτας Καρίκης πρωτοπρόεδρος καὶ δούξ Βουλγαρίας (1080s)

RHM-Haskovo, no. 385. Found in the area of Svilengrad. D. 20. 5-21 mm; field 20 mm; thickness 3.1 mm. A good imprint but on the obverse it is slightly struck off center because of the slipping of the blank. A very well-preserved specimen.
Ed. Йорданов-Аладжов, Хасковско, I, № 13; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no.19.2; *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 288.
Parallels: Other three specimens struck with the same boulloterion are preserved in the collections of Istanbul and Vienna (MK no. 191) (see *Μορδτμανν*, *Μολυβδόβουλλα*, αρ. 35; *Hunger, Zehn*, no. 9; *Wasliou, Seibt*, no. 250) and unpublished from *Zacos*, III, no. 1436.

Obv. Metrical inscription of five lines:

.ΡΑΦΑC | .ΦΡΑΓΙΖ | .8Δ8ΚΟC | .8ΛΓΑΡ' | ΑC

Rev. Metrical inscription of five lines:

+ ΠΡΩ | ΤΩΠΡΟΕ | ΔΡ8ΝΙΚΗ | ΤΑΤ8ΚΑ | ΡΙΚΝ'

[Γ]ραφὰς [σ]φραγίζ(ω) [τ]οῦ δουκὸς [Β]ουλγαρ(ί)ας πρωτωπροέδρου Νικήτα τοῦ Καρικν

1146. Νικηφόρος Βατάτζης πρόεδρος καὶ δούξ Βουλγαρίας (70s of the XIth c.)

Private collection (V. Pantaleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-24 (19) 4 mm, W. 14.80 g. Superb imprint in an excellent state of preservation.
Ed. *Jordanov, Family Names*, no. 98.
Parallels: Шандровская, Болгария, с. 148, рис.3; *Neslitt-Oikonomides, DOS*, 1, no. 29.3; *Maksimovic et Popovic*, no. 14.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand on a round shield resting on the ground. Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΔΗ-Μ-Η || .-Ρ.-Ο-С : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Δημή[τ]ρ[ι]ος.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- - | + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' | ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΩ | ΠΡΟΕΔΡΩC | ΔΟΝΚΙΡ8Λ | ΓΑΡΙΑCΤΩ |
RΑΤΑΤΞΗ | - -

Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Νικηφόρῳ προέδρῳ (καὶ) δουκὶ Βουλγαρίας τῷ Βατάτζη

16. Δεβελτός

1147. Τὰ βασιλικά κομμέρκια Δεβελτός (832-833)

Archeological base, Develt, no 205. Found during archeological excavations in sector A-I, sc. 11. D. 15-25 mm; field 22.5 mm; thickness 2.5 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, *Девет*, № 53; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 22.1.
Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, I, nos. 285 a-b. All specimens come from the same boulloterion. We recovered the inscription of our half by using these specimens.

Obv. Visible is half of the bust of emperor Theophilus facing and wearing a crown, dibetission and loros. Inscription beneath: = 'Ινδικτιων ια' (indiction 11). Along border of dots circular inscription.....||bAS... [Θεόφιλ(ος) βασιλ(εύς)]

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ T.. | Β'ΚΟΜ... | ΚΙΩΝ... | ΕΛ..

+ T[ῶν] β(ασιλικῶν) κομ[μερ]κίων [Δεβ]ελ[τοῦ]

1148. Κοσμᾶς κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ (830s-840s).

Archaeological base, Develt, no. 276. Found during archaeological excavations in the area of the kommerkion, sector A-II, sq. 73 in house no. 1. D. 24-26 mm; field 26 mm; thickness 3.1 mm. W. 12.56 g. The imprint was originally excellent and now the specimen is well preserved but one edge was damaged by a pick strike during the excavations.
Ed. Йорданов, *Девет*, № 54; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 22.2.
No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.3). In the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ||Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΟC | ΜΑΚ8Μ.. | ΚΙΑΡΙΩΔΕ | ΡΕΛΤ'

+ Κύριε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κοσμᾶ κομ[μερ]κιάρῳ Δεβελ(τοῦ)

1149. Χριστοφόρος β' κανδιῶτος καὶ κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ (830s-840s).

Private collection (Dr. D. Theodoridis from Munich). It probably originated from the Kommerkia of Debeltos. D. 25-26 (23-24) mm. The imprint on the obverse is not complete. The blank has slipped in the boulloterion. The bulla is in a superb state of preservation.
Ed. *Wassiliou-Kyriaki*, *Neue Siegel*, no. 1; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 22.3.
No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl.I. 5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ||Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

...CΤΟ | .ΟΡΩΒ'ΚΑΝ | ΔΙΔ'SKOMΕ | .ΔΕΒΕΛΤ'

Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ [Χρ]ιστο[φ]όρῳ β'κανδιδ(άτῳ) (καὶ)

κομερ(κιαρίω)] Δεβελτο(ῶ)

1150. Δαυίδ β'σπαθάριος καὶ κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ (870-893)

Archaeological Museum, Pliska no 321. Found in 1985 during archeological excavations of the Great Basilica in the town of Pliska, sector north, second northern courtyard. D. 21-22 mm; field 20 mm; thickness 2.5 mm. The specimen is badly preserved and dissolved along the line of the channel. Struck off-centre probably because of the loosened boulloterion.

Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 12; Йорданов, Девелт, VI.4; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 22.4.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:

+ ΚΕΡΟΗΘΗΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΔΑΔΡ' | CΠΑΘΑΡ. | .ΚΟΝΜΕ | Ρ...Ρ'ΔΕ | ..ΛΤ8

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Δα(υὶ)δ β(ασιλικῶ) σπαθαρχ[ί]ω [(καὶ)]

κουμερ[κ]ιαρ(ίω) Δε[βε]λτοῦ

1151. Εὐστράτιος κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ (X century).

RHM-Shumen, no. 14718. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot uncertain. D. 17-20 (17) 2.5 mm. W. 4.80 g. A complete and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт [Addenda], № 1.7; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 22.5; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 280.

Parallels: Mordtmann, Europes, no.17; republished in Seibt, Wasilliou, no.151; Barnea, I. Sceaux byzantins de Dobroudja, SBS, 1, p. 82, no. 5. They were struck in the same boulloterion as our specimen.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΚΕΡ' | Θ'ΤΩCΩ | Δ8'ΕV | CΤΡΑΤ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | + Κ8ΜΕ | ΡΚΑ'Ρ' ΔΕ | ΡΕΛΤ'IN | ΔΙΚΔ | - ο -

Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δού(λ)ω Εὐστρατ(ί)ω κουμερκ(ι)αρ(ί)ω

Δεβελτ(οῦ) 'Ινδικ(τιῶνος) δ' (τετάρτης)

1152. 'Ιωάννης? ἀσηκρήτης ? καὶ κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ (XIth century)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 3861. Found during archaeological excavations of the medieval stronghold near the village of Karavelovo, district of Yambol, sc. 27 on 7th October 1983. D. 18-19 mm; field over 18 mm; thickness 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, badly damaged. Holed and perhaps secondarily used as a weight. Surface quite effaced. Visible are only some of the letters or their contours. The deciphering of the inscription is problematic.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, VI.6; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 22.6

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

+ΚΕΡ. | | C8Δ8..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.Ω... | | ΜΕ.. | ΔΕΡ..

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δού(λ)ω 'Ιω(άννη) [ἀσηκρήτη (καὶ)]

κου]μερ[κ(ιαρίω)] Δεβ[ε]λ(τοῦ)]

1153. Βασίλειος ? κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 13587. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 25-26 (22) 4 mm. W. 14.85 g. Incomplete imprint and badly preserved specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, VI.11; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 22.7.

No parallels known.

Obv. Unknown military saint holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: O-A-ΓI-O || .-.-M'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ACI | .ΕΙΩ.. | .ΕΡΚΙΑ | .ΔΕΡΕΛ | -Τ8 -

[B]ασι[λ]εῖω [κομ]ερκ[ι]α[ρ(ίω)] Δεβελτοῦ

1154-1162. Κωνσταντῖνος Συρόπουλος σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ κομμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ (Xth-XIth cen.)

1154. Archeological Museum, Sofia, no. 154. In my previous publication, I used a plaster cast from the collection of Prof. T. Gerassimov. On the reverse it is noted that the original was owned by Dr. V. Haralanov from Shumen. Probable find-spot: Silistra (from where most seals in Dr. Haralanov's collection originate). D. 17-20 (over 20) 3 mm, W. 5.30 g. Incomplete imprint. Blank too small for die.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 22.8a; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 688.

1155. RHM-Shumen, no. 12389/3. Purchased from Alexander Boev from Silistra. D. 19-20 mm; field over 20 mm; thickness 3 mm; W. 5.07 g. It may be assumed that this specimen is the same as the previous one but it is just quite similar to it. Incomplete imprint. Many letters are out of the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.22.8b; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 689.

1156. RHM-Shumen, no. 14650. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D.18-20 mm. W. 6.28 g. Incomplete imprint as the specimens mentioned above.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.22.8g; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 694.

1157. Historical Museum, Pomorie, no. 9. Found in the city area. Offered for documentation by the curator of the museum on 14th June 1989 during my stay in the city of Burgas. D. 20-21 mm; field (?); thickness 3 mm. Weakly imprinted. Struck off-centre. Many letters are out of the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, VI.12..3; Jordanov, G. Names, no.22.8c; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 690.

1158. Private collection (Ivan Yotov from Yambol). Find-spot: probably somewhere in the region. Most of the seals of this collection are from the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo or from the village of Zlati Voivoda, district of Sliven. D. 20-21 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.22.8d; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 691.

1159. Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov from Elhovo). Given to the National Historical Museum in Sofia by the police. Most of the seals of this collection are from the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo. D. 21-22 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.22.8e; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 692.

1160. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Before being sold it was given to us. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-18.5 mm; field (?); thickness 3 mm. The imprint is incomplete as with the previous specimens.

Some of the letters are out of the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.22.8f; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 693.

1161. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Before being sold it was given to us. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-20 mm The imprint is incomplete as with the previous specimens. Some of the letters are out of the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.22.8g; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 694.

1162. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-21 mm. W. 6.60 g. Incomplete imprint as with the specimens mentioned above.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.22.8h; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 695.

The nine specimens were struck with the same die. Their states of preservation are different and the quality of their imprints is poor.

Parallels: **Шандровская**, Девельта, с.150, М-6141 Imprinted by another boulloterion.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- o - | +KΩN | CTANT | ΠΑΘΑΡ | ΚΑΝΔΔ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ∴ - | SKOMΕ . | ΚΗΑΡΙ'ΔΕ | .ΕΛΤ'OCV | ..Π8Λ'

+ Κονσταντ(ίνος) σπαθαρ(ο)κανδ(ι)δ(ᾱτος) (καὶ) κομε[ρ]κηάρι(ος)
Δε[β]ελτ(οῦ) ὁ Συ[ρό]πουλ(ος)

1163. Φώτιος ὑπατος καὶ κουμμερκιάριος Δεβελτοῦ? (IXth c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15122. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 118. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 20-21 (17.5 ?) 3.1 mm. W. 6.00 g. Incomplete imprint with damaged surface, which renders the reading very uncertain, especially as regards the kommerkiarios of Develtos.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 284.

No parallels known

Obv. Invocative cruciform monogram (Pl. I.5). In the quarters: . Ω-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΦΩΤ. | ΙΩΝΠΑΤ. | SKOMΕΡ. | ΑΡ'ΔΕ.. | ΛΤ.

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει [τ]ῷ σῷ δούλῳ Φωτ[ε]ίῳ ὑπάτ[ω] (καὶ) κομερ[κ(ι)]αρ(ίῳ)
Δε[β]ελτ[οῦ]

A kommerkiarios of Develtos by this name is unknown. If the reading is correct, we can increase the list of the titulars of this department by one.

17. Δοροστόλου / Δρίστρας

1164-1165. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δοροστόλου (971-?)

1164. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17589. D. 27-28 (21) 3 mm. D. 14.20 g. Imprinted twice at angles of 90°.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 215; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 23.1a.

1165. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18521. D. 24-25 (21) 3.6 mm. D.14.10 g. Partial imprint made by

a weak strike on the boulloterion or because of poor cohesion between the boulloterion and the blank.

Some of the letters were probably destroyed later by corrosion.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 216; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 23.1b.

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

a) - o - | +ΛΕ. | R'A'CΠ . . | SCTP . . | ΗΓ. | - o -

b) | . ΕΟ | R'A'CΠΑΘ' | SCTRAT | . . .

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) - o - | ΔΟΡΟC | . ΟΛΟΝ | . . ΑΡΑΚ | .ΝΟΠ8

b) | ΔΟΡ . . | ΤΟΛΟΝ | ΟCΑΡΑΚ | . . . Π8

+ Λέο(ν) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατηγ[ὸ(ς)] Δοροστόλου ὁ
Σαρακ[ι]νόπου(λος)

1166. Ἀρκάδιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δοροστόλου (971-?)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22172. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 11-20 (20?) 4 mm. Half specimen which is cut and not broken. It is interesting that the inside of the blank is hollow.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 217; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 23.2.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+K.... | . . Η | . ΩΔ | Α Ρ |..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

...ΠΑ | ...'SCT | ...'SCT | ..OCT. | ...

+ Κ[ύριε βο]ή[θ(ει) τῷ σ]ῷ δ[ούλῳ] Ἀρ[καδίῳ β'(πρωτο)σ]πα[θαρ(ίῳ) (καὶ)]
στ[ρα]τιγ[ῷ] Δορ[οστ]όλου

The main problem with the commentary of this seal is that its inscription is not explicit. In the last two lines on the reverse other letters could be proposed. We are also not sure what letters are available. Besides the proposed ..OCT. | ... - ..ΕCΙ. / ... is also possible and thus, some other variants of the toponym or patronym can also be proposed.

1167. Βασιλιανης/Βασιλάκης? β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Z. Byulbulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: the information obtained claims that it was in Silistra. D. 24-27 mm; field 21 mm; thickness 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. Struck off-center and also opened in the low half along the line of the channel.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 23.2.

Parallels: Another specimen in the collection of Zacos, III, no.1660 was struck by the same boulloterion. It is more complete and better preserved (see **Seibt**, *Bulgarische Geschichte*, no.1). We quoted above his text for comparison.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).

Inscription in two columns: ☉ || NI-K. Circular inscriptionCOΔΟΝΑΟ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.RAC . . | .NIA'CPAΘ | .I. SCTP' | . . . CTP
.RACIA | .NIA'CPAΘ | PΙOCTP' | TPICTP (Zacos collection)
[+K(ύρι)ε βοήθει το] σο δούλο Βασιλ[.]νι (πρωτο)σπαθαρίο (καὶ) στρ(ατιγῶ)
Τρίστρ(ας)

1168 Θεόδωρος πριμικήριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (Xth-XIth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 73. Found in Pliska by the Russian archaeological expedition in 1900. D. 27-28 (22) 3 mm. W. 10.56 g. A well-preserved specimen but incomplete imprint.
Ed. Панченко, Абоба-Плиска, 296-297, Табл. LVIII.3; Йорданов, Плиска, № 19; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 24.3.
Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same die was found in Istanbul (see Панченко, Каталог, № 66). It is preserved in the Hermitage (M-2338).

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ- ..- || Δ-Ω-P'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ |.ΕΟΔΩ | .PIMIK | .SCTPA |.ΙΓ'ΔΙC | TPAC
+ [Θ]εόδω(ρος) [π]ριμικ(ή)[ρ(ιος)] (καὶ) στρα[τ]ιγ(ός) Δίστρας

1169. Θεόδωρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (Xth-XIth c.)

Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1948. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. Fragment smaller than a half. D. 12-24 (22) 2 mm, W. 2.98 g. Incomplete imprint with missing letters and parts of the depiction.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Part from bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-. || . . .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. | ΠΑ | TPAT | . . ΩΔΙC | TP. .
[+ Θεοδώρ(ω) β'(πρωτο)σ]πα[θ(αρίω)] (καὶ) στρατ[ηγ]ῶ Δίστρ[ας]

If the restoration of the missing letters is correct, this seal should reflect a new episode in the career of the already known strategos of Dristra where he bears the title πριμικήριος. It is also possible that a different strategos of Dristra is concerned.

1170-1171. Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δρίστρας (Xth-XIth c.)

1170. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17545. D. 23-25 (19) 3 mm. W. 10.30 g.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 218; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 23.5a

1171. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17630. Half specimen.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 219; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 23.5b
The two specimens were struck with the same die.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base. Circular inscription:
+ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΠΕ | TP'R'A'CPA | Θ'SCTPAT' | ΔICTPA | C
+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ε)ι τῶ σῶ δούλ(ω) Πέτρ(ω) β'(πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίω)] (καὶ)
στρατ(ηγῶ) Δίστρας

1172. Ἀνδρόνικος β' σπαθάριος ? καὶ κομμερκιάριος Δρίστρας (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14205. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 22-23 mm; field over 22 mm; thickness 2 mm; W. 5.12 g. The imprint was originally good but the specimen is badly preserved.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 1; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 23.6.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of an unidentified military saint who is beardless with short curly hair holding a spear over his shoulder in r. hand and a shield in l. hand.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..ΔΡ.Ν |.ΚΩ.СΠ | .ΘΑΡ'SKO | ΜΕΡΚΗΑΡ' | ΔΡ'CTP
[Ἀν]δρ[ο]ν[ί]κω [β']/[πρωτο]σπ[α]θαρ(ίω) (καὶ) κομερκ(ιαρ)ίω Δρ(ί)στρ(ας)

1173. Διονύσιος σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ κομμερκιάριος Δρίστρας (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14697. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-24 (22.5) 2.5 mm. W. 8.00 g. Well-preserved specimen, but incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 23.7
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of an unidentified military saint who is beardless with short curly hair, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || . Γ-OI-C

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.ΚΕΡ'.. | ΔΙΟΝVC.. | CΠΑΘΚΑΝ | ΚΟΜΕΡΚΙ | ΑΡ'ΔΡΙ | .TP
[+] K(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ε)ι] Διονυσ(ί)[ω] σπαθ(αρο)καν(ιδιάτω) (καὶ)
κομερκ(ιαρ)ίω Δρί[σ]τρ(ας)

1174. Ἰωάννης κομμερκιάριος Δρίστρας (XIth century)

Find-spot: uncertain. Plaster cast from the collection of Prof. T. Gerassimov from Sofia. On the reverse it is noted that the original was in the collection of engineer Takov and it was made in 1963. D. 24-24 mm.
Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 23.8.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).
Inscription in two columns: Θ-N-I || K-O-ΛΑ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΙΩΚΟ | ΜΕΡΚΗΑ | ΡΗΩΔΡ | ΣΤΡΑC
+ Ἰω(άννη) κομερκηαρήω Δρ(ί)στρας

18. Δρουγουβιτείας

1175. Βασίλειος Τζιρίθων ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος, κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου καὶ Δρουγουβιτείας (50s-60s of the XI century)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D 22-37 mm; field 30 mm; thickness 7 mm. Well imprinted on a large and thick blank, of which no more than a half is preserved. This renders the deciphering of the inscription difficult and especially its fourth line where some extra office of Basil Tziriton might have been inscribed.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 24.1

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin standing and holding Christ (l. arm).

Rev. Inscription of eight lines:

...ΕΡ'Θ' | ...ΩΔ8ΛΩ |ΛΕΙΩΠΡΙ |ΠΑΤΩΚΡΙ | |ΔΡ8Γ8R |

..ΙΑCΤΩ. | .ΡΙΘΩΝ

[+Θ(εοτό)κ]ε β(οή)θ(ει) [τῶ σ]ῶ δούλ(ω) [Βασι]λείω π(ατ)ρι(κίω) [άντυ]πάτω
κρι[τῆ] τοῦ βήλου ... [καὶ] Δρουγουβ[ιτ]είας τῶ [Τζι]ρίθων

1176. Γρηγοῤ̃ς Σαυλοιωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth century)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30424. Formerly in a private collection (D. Dimitrov from Pernik). Found in the Gradishteto locality near the town of Lyubimets, district of Haskovo. D. 26-26 (21-22) 2.8 mm. A good imprint and a well-preserved specimen which enables some corrections to be made in the previous publication.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 24.2

Parallels: In the Dumbarton Oaks collection another specimen struck by the same die is preserved (DO. 58. 106. 2195), see *Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS*, 1, no. 21.3.

Obv. Bust of a bearded bishop with a nimbus and short hair blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand). Vertical inscription:|| Ο-ΘΑ-ΜΑ-Τ'. The available letters of the name of this saint give us reason to suggest that he is [Ὁ ἅγιος Γρηγόριος] ὁ Θα(υ)ματ(ουργός)

Rev. Inscription of seven lines preceded by an ornament:

- ∴ - | ΓΡΗΓΟ | ΡΑΑ'CΠΑΘ' | ΚΡΙΤ'ΕΠΙΤ | ΙΠΠΙΟΔΡΟΜ | ΣΤΗCΔΡ8Γ' | ΡΗΤΙΑΤ.
| CΑΝΛΟΙΩ | - ∴ -

Γρηγοῤ̃ (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) κριτ(ῆ) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) ἵπποδρόμ(ου) καὶ τῆς
Δρουγ(ου)βητίας τ[ῶ] Σαυλοιω(άννη)

1177. Θεόδοτος ἀσηκρήτης καὶ κριτῆς Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth century)

Historical Museum, Radnevo. Found during archeological excavations of the medieval settlement near the village of Polski gradetz. D. 23-24 mm; field 22 mm; thickness 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. The first

letters of all lines are missing. This renders the full reading of the inscription difficult. Besides the above proposed reading, there are two other possibilities and one of them was presented in the previous publication: ΚΙΡΤ. | ΔΡ8Γ. | -.. = [(πρι)μι]κίρ(ίω) τ(ῆς) δρουγ(α)[ρίω]

Ed. *Йорданов, Марица Изток*, № 18; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 24.3

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

.ΚΕΡΟ | .ΘΕΙΤΩ | .ΩΔΟΝΛ' | .ΕΟΔΩ | - Τ -

Rev. Inscription of four lines, preceded and followed by an ornament:

- ο - | ΑCΗ | ΚΡΗΤΙ | .ΚΙΡΤ | ΔΡ8Γ. | - . -

[+] Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θει τῶ [σ]ῶ δούλ(ω) [Θ]εοδώτ(ω) ἀσηκρήτι [(καὶ)] κριτ(ῆ)
Δρουγ[ουβ(ιτείας)]

1178. Ἰωάννης Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος, ἀσηκρήτης, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth century)

Historical Museum, Elkhovo, no. 3669. Find-spot: region of Elkhovo (Melnitsa). D. 24-25 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a bust of St. John the Baptist. Vertical inscription:

..... || ΠΙ-ΡΟ-ΔΡ'-Μ: [ὁ ἅ(γιος) Ἰω(άννης) ὁ] Πρόδρ(ο)μ(ος)

Rev. Inscription of seven lines preceded by an ornament:

+ΚΕΡ. | ΙΩΑ'CΠΑ. . | CΗΚΡ'Τ'Κ. . . . | ΕΠΙΤ8 | ΔΡ8Γ8 | ΤΩΚ. . . .
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει)] Ἰω(άννη) (πρωτο)σπα[θ(αρίω) ἀ]σηκρ(ῆ)τ(ι) κ[ριτῆ] ἐπὶ
τοῦ [ἵππο]δρ(όμου) (καὶ)] Δρουγου[βητίας] τῶ Κ.

Unfortunately we are unable to decipher the patronym of this unknown to date judge of the Drougoubiteias.

1178A. Ἰωάννης Ἐλεσβαάμ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κριτῆς Δρουγουβιτείας (1050s-1060s).

Private collection (V. Pantaleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-30 (28) 3 mm, W. 21.8 g. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. *Jordanov, F. Names*, no. 211.

Parallels: *Лихачев, Богоматери*, c. 27, tabl. VII.12

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with medallion of Christ before her.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | ἸΩΠΡΙ | ΑΝΘV | ΠΑΤ'SKPITH | ΔΡ8Γ8RIT' | ΕΛΕCRA
| -ΑΜ -

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῶ σῶ δούλ(ω) Ἰω(άννη) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) ἀνθυπάτ(ω) καὶ
κριτῆ Δρουγουβιτ(είας) τῶ Ἐλεσβαάμ

1179. N., καὶ κριτῆς Δρουγουβιτείας (XIth century)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30438. Formerly in a private collection (D. Dimitrov from Pernik). Found in the Gradishteto locality near the town of Simeonovgrad. D. 26-29 mm. Incomplete and badly preserved imprint which prevents the full reading of the inscription. We cannot be sure what the name of the owner and his title is. It is close to the latter but is still different.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.4

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ... | -ΠΑ.-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

...IC | ..PHTH | .. 8ΓΟΝ | ..ΤΗΑ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ[ούλῳ]..... [(καὶ) κ]ρητῇ [Δρ]ουγου[βι]τήα(ς)

1180-1185. Ἰσαάκιος β' πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δρουγουβιτείας (Xth-XIth c.)

1180. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 106. Find-spot: the ruins of Preslav in 1942. D. 20-20 (19 ?) 2.5 mm. W.4.11 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Broken into two parts, which were unsuccessfully stuck.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 220; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.5a.

1181-1182. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 221-221б; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.5b-c

1183. Private collection (Ilyan Zhekov from Shumen). Find-spot: uncertain. This specimen was placed at our disposal before being sold. According to its owner, it was found in Silistra or somewhere in northeastern Bulgaria but perhaps it was taken from Preslav. D. 20.5-20.5 mm; field 19 mm; thickness 2.5 mm. An excellent imprint and a very well preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.5d.

1184-1185. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. Probably they originate from Preslav or Silistra. D. 22-25 mm; field 19 mm; thickness 2.5 mm. D. 20-21 mm; field 19 mm; thickness 3 mm. The two specimens have different states of preservation and the quality of their imprints is different.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.5e-f.

The six specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps, on either side fleuron. Along border of dots, circular inscription: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+HCA | KHOR'A' | CΠAΘ'S | CTPAT' | ΔΡΟΓ8 | RHT'

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰσακῆο β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) στρατ(ηγῷ) Δρο(υ)γουβ(ι)τείας

1186. Κωνσταντῖνος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Δρουγουβιτείας (Xth-XIth centuries)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14206. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 12-24 (21) 1.5 mm. W. 2.69 g. Half of a previously very good imprint which renders the reading difficult.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 477; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.6.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of decorative cross. In the field on the right \overline{XC} . Remains of a circular inscription:

..... ΩCΩΔΟΝΛ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+K.... | ΠAΘS.... | PHΓK..... | AKMA..... | NAGP.... | ΔPO...

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Κ[ων(σταντῖνῳ) (πρωτο)σ]παθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) [ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) χρ(υσο)τ]ρηγκ[λίνου ... (καὶ) ἀ]ναγρ[αφεὺς(ς)] Δρο[υγουβ(ι)τείας(ς)]

1187-1188. Λέων N., ἀσηκρήτης καὶ κριτῆς Δρουγουβιτείας (Xth-XIth centuries)

1187. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 5986. D. 20-22 (26?) 3.5 mm. W. 7.23 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 222; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.7a.

1188. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21539. D. 24-25 (26?) 3 mm. W. 11.00 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 223; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.7

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

Parallels: Another specimen probably struck with the same die is preserved in the collection Orphanidi-Nikolaïdi of the Numismatic Museum of Athens. It provides a basis for correction of the reading of the specimens from Preslav but not the whole text of the seal. See **Koltzida-Makre**, no.45.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a sceptre with a trefoil (r. hand) and a globe (l. hand).

Sigla: M-I || .-A. Between two borders of dots :..... ΩΔ'ΕΛΕONTIACH.....

Rev. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).

Inscription in two columns: O -.. || K-O-Λ'. Between border of dots inscription continuing from the obverse:ΔΡ8Γ8RITIAC

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Λέοντι ἀση[κρήτη καὶ]

Δρουγουβιτείας....

1189-1197A-B. Μιχαήλ Σκληρός πρωτοπρόεδρος καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Δρουγουβιτείας (80s of the XI century)

1189. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19752. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23.9-24.9 (20) 4 mm, W. 12.95 g.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 224; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.8a; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 653

1190. RHM-Stara Zagora, no. 10 C3-8. Find-spot: Stara Zagora. D. 24-25 mm; field 20 mm; thickness 3 mm. Almost the whole surface is damaged.

Ed. Йорданов, Берое, № 8; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 24.8b; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 654.

1191. RHM-Shumen, no. 14202. Purchased from Yordan Strahilov from Omurtag. Found by treasure-hunters in the stronghold near the village of Kipilovo, district of Sliven, together with coins. D. 21-22 mm; field (?); thickness 3.5 mm. W. 4.58 g. At present the specimen is badly preserved with a missing fragment and an effaced surface. The text below is a result of comparison between better preserved specimens.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 24.8c; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 655.

1192. Private collection (Yanko Todorov from Shumen). Found in 1993 in the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voivoda, district of Sliven. D. 21-21 mm; field (?); thickness 3 mm. An incomplete imprinted but a well-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 24.8d; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 656.

1193. Private collection (D. Dimitrov from Pernik). Found by him in the stronghold near Simeonovgrad. D. 23-25 mm; field (?); thickness 4 mm. Good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 24.8e; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 657.

1194. Private collection (M. Lakov from Sofia). Find-spot: Achtopol. D. 24-25 mm; field (?); thickness 3.6 mm. Complete imprint, but in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 24.8f.; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 658.

1195-1197A. We documented four specimens from several private collections. They belong to the same boulloterion as the last one. Find-spot: uncertain. Probably some of them were stolen from Preslav and others come from the same places as the last one or from different places. All these specimens have different states of preservation and their diameter, field and thickness are similar to the last.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 24.8g-j; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, nos. 659-662.

The ten specimens were struck with the same die.

Parallels: Three other specimens struck with the same die are preserved in DO. 55.1.3313; DO.58. 106. 2360; Fogg A.M. 1503 (see their edition: **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, no. 21.1).

1197B. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: Uncertain. D. 20-21(?) 4 mm. W. 8.00 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint in a boulloterion different from the above specimens.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 24.8k; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 663.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{MP} || \overline{\Theta V}$: Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

1189-97A. +ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΑτΠΡΟΕΔΡΩ | ΚΑΙΑΝΑΓΡΑ | ΦΕΝCΔΡ8Γ8 |
RITIACTΩ | CΚΛHP'

1197B: | ΕΔΡΩS | ΑΓΡΑΦΕΝC | 8Γ8RITIA | CΚΛ | .
+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) Μιχαήλ (πρω)τ(ο)προέδρω καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς
Δρουγουβιτίας τῷ Σκληρ(ῶ)

1198. Χριστοφόρος ἀσηκρῆτις, κριτῆς Δρουγουβιτείας (καὶ)... (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 12340/5. Purchased from Alexander Boev from Silistra. Found in Silistra on the bank of the Danube. D. 18-22 mm. W. 3.65 g. Incomplete imprint and specimen in a poor state of preservation; holed here and there. About a third is broken. Perhaps it was used as a button or something else.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 24.9.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

..... | | .CTOΦ' | ..IKPI |

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..... | ΔΡ8Γ8.. | TIACS.. | |

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω Χρ(ι)]στοφ(όρω) [ἀσ]ικρι[τ(ι) κριτῆ]
Δρουγου[βι]τίας (καὶ)...

1199-1201. Θεόδουλος πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος, κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Δρουγουβιτείας (mid-XIth century)

1199. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: Uncertain. D. 25-23 (23) 3 mm Half of previously very good imprint. Cut not along the channel but slantwise.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 24.10.

1200. Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: region of Plovdiv or Pazardzhik. D.25-27 mm. Good imprint, out of which a small portion is chipped or broken.

Unpublished.

1201. Historical Museum, Nesebar, no. 1933. Former collection of Kliment Atanasov from Burgas. Find-spot: uncertain. D.27-27 (25) 3.5 mm.W. 12.37 g. Superb imprint. A fragment missing, probably cut.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Virgin orans standing to front on a suppendion. Sigla: $\overline{MP} || \overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

1199-1200. +ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | ΘΕΟΔΟΝΛΩΑ' | CΠΑΘΑΡΙΩV |.. ΤΩΚΡΙΤ |
. 8RΗΛ'ΔΡ | . 8RITIA

1201. +ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | ΘΕΟΔΟΝΛΩΑ' | CΠΑΘΑΡΙΩV |
ΔΤΩΚΡΙΤ | . . RΗΛ'ΔΡ | . . . ITIA

+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω Θεοδούλ(ω) (πρωτο)σ]παθ(αρίω)
ύ[π]άτω κριτ(ῆ) τ[οῦ] βήλ(ου) (καὶ) Δρ(ου)[γ]ουβιτ(ε)ία(ς)

19. Δυρράχιον

1202. Νικήτας Πηγονίτης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Δυρραχίου (1018)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22913. D. 21-22 (over 22 ?) 5 mm. W. 9.60 g. Incomplete imprint, the blank was smaller than the die. The surface of the bulla is covered with thick oxide.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 225; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 25.1; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 585.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | | .TPATH. | .VPAX'T. | ΠΙΓΟΝ'T

[Νικήτ]α πατρικ(ίω) (καὶ) σ]τρατη[γ(ῶ)] Δ]υραχ(ίου) τ[ῷ] Πιγον(ί)τ(η)

1203. Μιχαήλ Μαύριξ βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Δυρραχίου (1065-1068)

National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 22-24 mm; field (?); thickness 3 mm. Incompletely imprinted and badly preserved specimen. The first two lines of the inscription are out of the blank.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, I, № 12; **Jordanov**, *G. Name*, no. 25.2; **Jordanov**, *Family Name*, no. 425.

Parallels: Three other specimens struck with the same boulloterion or die are preserved in the collections of the Numismatic Cabinet in Vienna (M 173); Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 58. 106. 4234) and Fogg A. M. no. 1908. About their publications, see M 173 (**Mordtmann**, *Grece*, no. 26; **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 204, no.

1; Seibt, *Bleisiegel*, S. 169, n. 7); DO and Fogg A. M. (Nesbitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, 1, no. 12.5).

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). On either side vertical inscription: -Γ-Ε-Ω || Ρ-Γ' : ['Ο ἄγιος] Γ[ε]ώργιος.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | | ΡΕCΤΑ... |ΕΠΙΑΝ' | ΔΥΡΡΑΧ'ΤΩ | ΜΑΥΡΙΚ'
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Μιχαήλ] βεστά[ρχη (καὶ) κατ]επάν(ω) Δυρραχ(ίου) τῷ
Μαύρικ(ι)

1204. Ἀνδρόνικος τουρμάρχης Παχιλᾶου, Ἀραχιλαβης or Δυρραχίου (XIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 76. Find-spot - uncertain. D. 23-25.5 (19-20) 2 mm. W.6.88 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 25.3

Parallels: A second specimen imprinted with the same boulloterion is kept in the IFEB collection, no. 879. Although we use it to fill some missing letters of our inscription, its imprint is also incomplete (see Laurent, V. Sceaux byzantins inedits, *EO*, 32, 1933, 37-38, III; Seibt, *Geographie Bulgariens*, no.2).

Obv. Inscription of four lines preceded by decoration:

-:- | +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8 | ΑΝΔΡΟ | ΝΙΚ | -:-

Rev. Inscription of four lines preceded by decoration:

-:- | Τ8Ρ | ΜΑΡ.. | .ΡΑΧ. | ΑΛ. | - . -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἀνδρονίκ(ω) τουρμάρ[χι] Παχιλᾶου /
['Α]ραχ[ι]λα[β]ης) or [Δυ]ραχ[ί]ου τῷ] αλ..

20. Δύσις

1205. Πανκράτης β'κανδιδάτος καὶ κομμερκιάριος τῆς Δύσεος (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 147 (from the former collection of Dr. V. Haralanov from Shumen). Purchased on 14th June 1969 from Russe and presumably originates from the region (Silistra). D. 22-24 (20) 4 mm. W. 12.34 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The first line is missing.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. A bird walking left. No traces of a circular inscription.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+... | ΝΚΡΑΘ | ΝΡ'ΚΑΝΔΙΑ | Τ'ΣΚΟΝΜΕ | ΡΚΗΑΡΙΟΤ | ΙCΔΝCΕο | - ο -
+ [Πα]νκράτην β'κανδιδ(ά)τ(ος) (καὶ) κουμμερκιάριο(ς) τις Δύσεο(ς)

The owner of the seal who sent his correspondence to an unknown addressee most probably located in Dristra was Pankratios, imperial kandidatos and kommerkiarios of the West. He was conceivably an Armenian by origin.

Where was this kommerkion and who did it serve?

In IXth- Xth centuries, the kommerkiarioi were fiscal representatives of the logothetes of the genikon collecting the ten per cent tax from the goods passing through the respective

region. Their jurisdiction was normally defined by the name of the city or theme they were located in. If we take literally the definition *West*, which for other offices traditionally includes the whole of the Balkan peninsula, it will seem unacceptable in this case, the more so that there were other kommerkia of cities and themes in the Byzantine West at the same juncture. It is more likely that the jurisdiction of β'κομμερκιάριος τῆς Δύσεως was only limited over a part of the Balkan peninsula. But which part was it? Since no other kommerkion was recorded after the liquidation of Develtos (in 917), it seems plausible that it was precisely the β'κομμερκιάριος τῆς Δύσεως which served the Bulgarian-Byzantine contacts after this date.

21. Εὐξείνος Πόντος

1206. Τὰ βασιλικά κομμέρκια τοῦ Εὐξείνου Πόντου (783-784)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 14. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 27-33 (32) 4.5 mm, W. 27.69 g. Incomplete imprint. The obverse is slightly effaced.

Ed. Мухомов, Печати, № 7; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 28.1

No parallels known.

Obv. Two imperial busts: Constantine VI (l.), beardless, wearing chlamys and crown with a cross, and his mother Eirene (r.), wearing a crown with a cross and four triangular projections. Between the figures, in the upper field, a cross.

Rev. Three imperial busts above an exergual line: Constantine V (l.), Leo III (centre) and Leo IV (r.); all wearing chlamyses and crowns with crosses. Indiction sign visible in the field: Z (indiction 7).

Below the exergual line, inscription of three lines:

ΤΩΝΒ'ΚΟΜΜΕ | .Κ'Τ8ΕΝΕΗ | ΝΟΝΠΟΝΤ | ..

['Ινδικτιῶνς] ζ

Τῶν β'κομμε[ρ]κ(ιῶν) τοῦ Εὐξείνου Πόντ[ου]

1207. Μιχαήλ πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπάτος καὶ στρατηγὸς τοῦ Εὐξείνου Πόντου (mid-XIth century)

Unknown place of preservation. Find-spot: uncertain, probably Istanbul. D. 27-27 mm Good but illegible imprint.

Ed. Мухомов, Печати № 51; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 28.2.

Parallels: Nesbitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, 3, no 72.5.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-Α-Γ-.. || Ν-Ι-ΚΟ-Λ-Α'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | Α'CΠΑΘΑΡ | ΝΙΑТСCΤΡ | ΤΙΓΤ8ΕΝ | ΕΗΝΠΙΟΝ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Μιχαήλ (πρωτο)σπαθαρί(ω) ὑπάτ(ω) (καὶ) στρ(α)τιγ(ῶ)
τοῦ Εὐξείν(ου) Πόντ(ου)

22. Θεοδωρούπολις

1208–1211. Σισίνιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κατεπάνω Θεοδωρουπόλεως (971-?)

The four specimens were struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 228-231; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 33.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. A rosace made out of cross with equal arms that end in fleurons filling the quarters.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+CICI | NIOR'A'C | ΠΑΘ'SKAT | ΕΠΑΘΕΟ | Δ8ΡΟΠ'

+Σισινίο β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) κατεπά(νω) Θεοδουροπ(όλεως)

23. Θεσσαλονίκη

1212. Κατακαλὼν β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (mid-Xth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 95. Found during archeological excavations in the medieval settlement near the village of Popina, district of Silistra. D. 21.5-23 (?) 2.5 mm. W. 6.57 g. Poorly preserved specimen. The obverse is almost entirely effaced. Holed in two places and probably used as a fishing weight.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 34.1.

Parallels: Two specimens struck with a different die are preserved in the archive of the main Athonian church of the Protaton. One of them is still originally attached to a document dated 2nd August 943 (see Protaton, no. 6) and the other one is affixed to a document from May 942 (see Protaton, no. 4) but later on it was attached to another much later document unrelated to the first one (Protaton, p. 189). See Dölger, Schatzkammern, nos. 120.1 - 120.2; Oikonomides, Dated, no. 65.

Obv. Effaced. Scarcely visible outlines of griffin on l.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | ..KATA | ..ΛΩΡ'A' | ..Θ'ΚΕCTP | ...ΘΕCA | ..NIKIC

[+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει)] Κατα[κα]λῶ(ν) β'(πρωτο)σ[πα]θ(αρίω) κὲ στρ(α)[τηγ(ῶ)]
Θεσσα[λω]νίκης

1213. Δαυὶδ Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (Xth-XIth cen.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 28079. Found in the southwestern corner of the inner city of Preslav during archaeological excavations in 1991. A fragment (about a half of originally good imprint). D. 17-27 (of the seal over 25 mm).

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 34.2.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5). In the quarters: . Ω-CΩ ||.-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΔΑ..... | CΠΑΘ'SC.. | THΓ'ΘEC .. | T8..... |.....

+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθει [τ]ῷ σῷ δούλῳ Δα(υὶ)δ [β'(πρωτο)]σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ)

στρ(α)[τηγ(ῶ)] Θεσ[αλ(ονικης)] του ...

Naturally the reading of the text on this fragment is uncertain. Instead of SC.. | THΓ'ΘEC.. | T8..... |..... : (καὶ) στρ(α)[τηγ(ῶ)] Θεσ[αλ(ονικης)] του ..., W. Seibt proposes (BZ, 98, S.131) (καὶ) στρ(α)[τηγ(ῶ)] Θεο[φυλ(άκ)του] [β' 'Οψικίου] which is not impossible. Anyway, a better preserved specimen would settle this.

1214. Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (X c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Found in Silistra. Half preserved. D. 12 mm.

Ed. Barnea, Durostorum, no. 7; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 34.3.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a Gospel book (l. hand).

Vertical inscription: ... || K-O-Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+K... |CTA... |CΠA... |TPA... |CA...

var. a: +KΕR'Θ'|CTAΥPAK'R'A' |CΠAΘAP'SC |TPAT'T'ΘE |CAΛONIK

var. b: +KΩN |CTANTR'A' |CΠAΘAP'SC |TPAT'T'ΘE |CAΛON

It is possible to attribute it to Thessalonike. Its inscription is incomplete and the preserved part could be read in various ways:

1215. 'Ιωάννης σπαθαροκανδιδάτος, ἀσηκρῆτης καὶ κριτῆς Βολεροῦ, Στρυμόνος καὶ Θεσσαλονίκης (XIth century)

Private collection (St. Billik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-30 mm; field 24.5 mm; thickness 4 mm. Good imprint but some of the letters are not visible. Specimen in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 34.4

Parallels: Two specimens struck with a different die are preserved in the DO Collection 47.2.168 and 58.106.3868 (see Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS, 1, no 18.24).

Obv. Inscription of five lines followed by decoration:

ΘΚΕR'Θ' | TΩCΩΔ8' | IΩANN. | CΠAΘAP. | KANΔ. | - ∴ -

Rev. Inscription of five lines preceded and followed by decoration:

- ∴ - | ACHKPH | .KPITH | ..EP'CTPY | MONSΘE | CAΛONIK' | - - -

Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω 'Ιωάνν[η] σπαθαρ[ο]κανδ(ι)[δάτ]ω]

ἀσηκρῆ(τη) [(καὶ)] κριτῇ [Βολ]ερ(οῦ) Στρυμόν(ος) (καὶ) Θεσσαλονίκ(ης)

1216. Εὐθύμιος γεννηκὸς λογαθεσίου ἄρκλας..... (Xth-XIth centuries)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17007. Found in the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-24 (20?) 2 mm. Doubled imprint, especially on the obverse. Poorly preserved specimen. This renders the reading of the inscription difficult thus attributing the seal to the group of undeciphered seals at the time of their original publication. Of course, the reading proposed here is just a hypothesis prompted by Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS, 1, no. 1.4; 71.2 with the names of officials who held the same position.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 463; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 34.5.

No parallels known

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8Λ . | .VΘVM . | ο

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΕΝΗΚ | ...ΛΘΕC | ..ΛΛΟ. | .ΚΗ.

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ[ω] Εὐθυμ[ί]ο [γ]ενηκ(ῶ) [ἄρκ]λ(ας)

Θεσ[σα]λλο[νί]κη[ς] or [γ]ενηκ(οῦ) [ἄρκ]λ(ας) [λο]γαθεσ(ίου) [τ(ῆς) Θρά]κη[ς]

or

[γ]ενημ[ματ]ῶ Θεσ[σα]λλο[νί]κη[ς], the latter is due to Seibt's suggestion (*BZ*, 98, S. 131).

1217. Τὰ βασιλικά κομμέρκια Θεσσαλονίκης (801-802)

Archaeological Museum, Nessebar, no 1275. Found in the medieval stronghold near the village of Štit, district of Svilengrad (Skoutarion). D. 23-31 (25) 4 mm. W. 22.93 g. Struck off-centre. Some portions of the representation and the inscription are out of the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 34.6.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Empress Eirene wearing a crown with a cross and two triangular projections, divitision and chlamys, and holding scepter on the l.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΤΩΝΒ' | ΚΟΜΕΡ. | ΘΕCΑΛ. | ΝΙΚΙC

Τῶν β(ασιλικῶν) κομερ[κ(ίων)] Θεσαλ[ο]νίκις

1218. Ἀγαλλιανὸς σπαθάριος καὶ ἑπαρχὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (mid-Xth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14782. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 29-29 (28) 3.5-4.5 mm. W. 19.96 g. It was a good imprint in the past but it is now heavily effaced. Traces of letters and a monogram are visible. The reconstruction of the text is made after the specimens already published.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 34.7.

Parallels: Two other specimens struck with the same boulloterion are kept in the collections of Dumbarton Oaks (DO 55.1.666), see *Zacos, Seals*, I, no. 1691; *Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS*, I, no. 18.18 and Orghidan, see *Laurent, Orghidan*, no. 238.

Obv. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.8).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΑΓΑ | .ΛΙΑΝΩ | ...ΣΕΠΑ | |

[Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ[ω] Ἀγα[λ]λιανῶ [σπα(θαρίω)] (καὶ) ἐπά[ρχω]

Θεσσαλονί(κης)]

1219. Ν., κομμερκιάριος καὶ ἀβυδικὸς Θεσσαλονίκης (IXth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15068. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 64. Find-spot: Plovdiv region. D. 24-26 (22) 3.2 mm. W. 13.26 g. Incomplete imprint, scratched with a blade.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 291.

No parallels known.

Obv. Portion of invocative cruciform monogram. In the quarters: ..-.. || .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | .CR'... | ΕΡΚΙΑΡΙΩ | . ARVΔΚ'ΘΕ | CΑΛΟΝ' | -.-

[Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δ]ούλ[ω] ς β'[κομμ]ερκιαρίω [(καὶ)] ἀβυδικ(ῶ)

Θεσαλον(ίκης)

24. Θράκης

1220-1223. Ἰωάννης νοτάριος καὶ βικάριος Θράκης (VIth century).

A.

1220. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30431. Formerly in private collection (D. Dimitrov from Pernik).

Found in the "Kalyata" locality near the town of Shivachevo, district of Sliven. D. 23-25 mm. Good imprint and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.1Aa

1221. Private collection (B. Sergov). Found in Achtopol. D. 21-23 mm; field 20 mm; thickness ? mm. W. 9.20 g. Good imprint and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.1Ab

1222. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-24 mm. Good imprint and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.1Ac.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, I, no. 2802 b, struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Monogram with Greek letters (pl. VI.172) consisting of the name Ἰωάννου and the office νοτάριου.

Rev. Inscription of three lines in Latin:

.ΨICA | RIΨTh. | aCIS

+ Ἰωάννου νοτάριου [(kai)] vicariu Th[r]acis

B.

1223. Historical Museum, Nova Zagora. Found by treasure-hunters in the "Kalyata" locality near the town of Shivachevo, district of Sliven in 1997. D. 20-22 (17) 5.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. The surface of the seal is corroded.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.1B.

Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, I, no. 2802 a, struck by the same boulloterion.

Obv. Monogram, as last (pl. VI.172).

Rev. Inscription of three lines in Latin:

ΕΤΨ. | CARIΨ. | R A C..

+ Ἰωάννου νοτάριου et v[i]cariu [Th]rac[is]

1224. Ἀδριανὸς βικάριος Θράκης (VIth c.)

Archaeological Musuem, Plovdiv no. 6050. Formerly in the collection of V. Stankov from Batak. Found in the medieval settlement near the village of Yavorovo to the west of Asenovgrad at the foot of the Rhodope

mountains. D. 24-24 (20) mm. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Laurent**, *EO*, 38, 1939, p. 367; **Zacos**, *Seals*, no. 2798; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, no. 71.40.

Obv. Monogram (pl. VI. 173) consisting of the letter Δ and Α surmounted by 8; Ρ at left, Ν at right. Probably the name has to be read as Ἀδριανοῦ

Rev. Inscription of three lines. Wreath border.

ΒΙΚΑ | ΡΙΘΘΡΑ | ΚΗC

Ἀδριανοῦ βικάριου Θράκης

1225. Βαρδάνης πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (first half of the IXth century)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 22. Find spot: uncertain. D. 27-27 (23) 4 mm. W. 15.21 g. Good imprint and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Мухомов**, *Печати*, № 27; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35.2.

Parallels: Another specimen with the same inscription and representation is preserved in the collection of Zacos but it was struck with a different die (see **Zacos**, *Seals*, I, no. 1750 A).

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΡΑΡΔ | ΑΝ. ΠΑΤ'Ρ' | Α'СΠ'СТР' | .ΘΡΑΚ'

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Βαρδαν[η] πατ(ρική) β' (πρωτο)σπ(αθαρίω) (καὶ) στρ(ατηγῷ) [τ(ῆς)] Θράκ(ης)

1226. Ἰωάννης πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (IXth c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14695. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Develt. D. 26-28 mm; field 23 mm; thickness 4.5 mm. W. 9.70 g. The imprint is incomplete because it was struck in the lower part of the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35.4.

No parallels known.

Obv. Portion of cruciform invocative monogram.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΙΩΠ... | .ΑΣΠΑΘ' | .ΤΡΑΤ'ΤΗC | .ΡΑΚΗC

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθε τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰω(άνν)η π[ατρ(ική) β'] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [(καὶ) σ]τρατ(ηγῷ) τῆς [Θ]ράκης

1227. Λέων β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης (the 20s-40s of IXth cent.)

Archaeological base, Develt, no. 191. Found during archeological excavations of the kommerkia in sector A-II, sq. 91. D. 26-29 mm; field 27 mm; thickness 4 mm. Good imprint but the blank was too small for die and some portions are out of it. Well-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Девелт*, № 55; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35.5.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΛΕΩ. | ΤΗΡ'Α'СΠΑ. | СТРΑΤΗΓ. | ΤΗCΘΡΑ.

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Λέω[ν]τ(η) β' (πρωτο)σπα[θαρίω] (καὶ) στρατηγ[ῷ] τῆς Θρά[κ(ης)]

1228-1229. Σισίνιος πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (IXth c.)

1228. RHM-Shumen, no. 14696. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Develt. D. 27-28 mm; field 26 mm; thickness 3 mm. W. 13.80 g. The imprint is incomplete.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35.6; **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 294.

No parallels known.

1229. RHM-Shumen, no. 15118. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 114. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 19.1-21.5 (?) 4-6 mm. W. 13.36 g.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 295.

The two specimens were struck in different boulloteria.

No parallels known.

Obv. Portion of a cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.8). In the quarters:

.Ω-СΩ || . 8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

СΙCIN | ΗΩΠΑΤΡ' | .ΑΣΠΑΘ' | . CΤΡΑΤ' | Τ'ΘΡΑΚ

.CICI | ΝΙΩΠΑ... | Ρ'Α'СΠ'... | ΤΡΑ'Τ' | ...

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Σισινήω πατρ(ική) β' (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [(καὶ)] στρατ(ηγῷ) τ(ῆς) Θράκ(ης)

1230. Ν., πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (IXth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15233. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: region of Kotel. D. 23-23 (23?) 4.5 mm. W. 12.40 g. Incomplete imprint covered with white patina.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 296.

Obv. Part of invocative monogram (Pl. I.8) in the quarters: .. - .. || .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ...ΩΠ.. | .ΙΚΒΑC... | CΤΡΑ... | .ΘΡΑ...

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει [τῷ σῷ δ]ούλῳ Γρηγορί]ω π[ατρ]ικ(ίω) β' (πρωτο)σ[παθ(αρίω) (καὶ)] στρα[τηγ(ῷ) Θράκ(ης)]

1231. Ν., πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Θράκης (IXth century).

RHM-Shumen, no. 15097. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 93. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 26-29 (25) 3 mm. W. 12.06 g. Incomplete imprint in an excellent state of preservation on the obverse. Two oxide nests on the reverse.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 297.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.8). In the quarters: . Ω -C. || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five or six lines:

... ΧΩΠ | .ΤΡΙΚ'Κ'CT | ΡΑΤΙΓΩΤ'|ΘΡΑΚΙ | C+
+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει [τ]ῶ σ[ῶ] δούλω [Σωτηρι]χω π[α]τρικ(ίω) κ(αί) στρατηγῶ
τ(ῆς) Θράκης

1232. Γρηγοῤ̃ς ? β'σπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης (first half of the IXth cent.)

RHM-Yambol, no. II 5464. Found in the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Yambol. D. 23-23.5 mm; field over 23 mm; thickness 2 mm. Incomplete imprint and specimen in a poor state of preservation.

The reading of the title is uncertain.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 35.7.

No parallels known.

Obv. Scarcely visible contours of cruciform invocative monogram.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

... | ..PARC | ΠΑΘ'SCTP | ..ΙΓ'ΘΡΑ | ΚΗC
[+Γρηγο]ρᾶ β'σπαθ(αρίω) (καί) στρ[ατ]ιγ(ῶ) Θράκης

1233. N.,καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης (the 20s-40s of the IXth century)

Archaeological Base, Develt, no. 217. Found during archeological excavations of the kommerkion in sector A-I, sq. 77. D. 13.5-26 mm; field over 26 mm; thickness 3 mm. Fragment smaller than a half of originally incomplete imprint. This renders the reading problematic.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девелт*, № 61; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 35.8.

No parallels known.

Obv. The only preserved part of cruciform invocative monogram is l. arm. Visible from the inscription in the quarters: ТΩ-.. || Δ8 - ..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

... Ω . |IT |T'.. | ..ΑΚΗ
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῶ [σῶ] δού[λω Λέ]ω[v] [στρα]τ(η)[γῶ Θρ]άκη(ς)

1234. N., β'σπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης (IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found by T. Totev during conservation of the ceramic workshop in 1993. D. 14-29 mm. Fragment smaller than a half of what was once an incomplete, but well-preserved imprint. The restoration of the missing letters is to a certain extent a figment of the imagination.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5). In the quarters: ..- Ω || .. - ΔΩ

Rev. Isolated letters from an inscription of four or five lines:

..... | . Ω. | SCT | C
[+Θεοτόκε βοήθη τῶ σῶ δουλω] .. ω [β'σπαθ(αρίω)] (καί) στ[ρατ(ηγῶ) τῆ]ς

[Θράκ(ης)]

1235-1237. 'Ισαάκιος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης (Xth-XIth centuries)

The three specimens were struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 234-235; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 35.9.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base. Circular inscription along border of dots: +ΚΕΡΟΙΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- . - | ΗCΑΚΙC | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | SCTPATI | ΓΩCΘΡΑ | ΚΙC | - ∴ -
'Ησάκις β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καί) στρατιγῶς Θράκης

1238-1240. Βασίλειος 'Αργυρὸς πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης (the 20s-40s of the XIth century)

1238. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17577. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav, 11. 08. 1979. D. 24.5-26 (25) 2 mm, W. 5.75 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. Direction of the seals as with coins. Thin and flat blank.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 232; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 35.10a; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 49.

1239. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24551. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav on 2nd August 1983. A fragment smaller than a half. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 233; *Ed.* Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 35.10b; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 50.

1240. RHM-Shumen, no. 12389/4. Purchased from Alexander Boev from Silistra. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 14-26 mm; field 25 mm; thickness 2.5 mm. W 6.07 g. Incomplete imprint. Half of the specimen is missing.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 35.10c; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 51.

The three specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps with fleurons rising from base.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ∴ - | +RACIA | ΠΑΤΡΙΚ. | CTPATHΓ | ΘΡΑΚΗCΩ | ΑΡΓΥΡΟ
+Βασίλ(ειος) πατρίκ(ιος) [(καί)] στρατηγ(ός) Θράκης ὦ 'Αργυρό(ς)

1241. Χασάνης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης (the mid XIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 124. Found by the Russian archeological expedition in 1899-1900. D. 24-26.5 (over 25) 3 mm. W.10.54 g. Good imprint but visibly the blank was too small for the die.

Ed. Панченко, *Абоба-Плиска* 294-295, Табл. LVIII.2 а-б; Йорданов, *Плиска*, № 32; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 35.11.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand set on shield resting on the ground.
Vertical inscription: -Ε-Ω-Ρ || Γ-Ι-Ο' : [Ὁ ἅγιος Γεώργιος].

Rev. Inscription of six lines

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΧΑCΑΝΗ | ΠΡΙΑΝΘΝΠ' | ΤΩCΤΡΑ | ΤΙΓ'ΘΡΑ | -ΚΗC-
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Χασάνη π(ατ)ρι(κίω) ἀνθυπ(ά)τω (καὶ) στρατιγ(ῶ)
Θράκης

1242. Δαυὶδ β'μανδάτωρ καὶ ἐκ προσώπου τῆς Θράκης (IXth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15096. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 92. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 25-26 (22) 3.8 mm. W. 9.82 g. Incomplete imprint in an excellent state of preservation on the obverse. Two oxide nests on the reverse.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 299.

No parallels known.

Obv. Portion of invocative cruciform monogram (Pl. I. 5). In the quarters: -CΩ || . 8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΔΑΔΡ | ΜΑΝΔΑΤ | .ΕΚΠΡΟ | ΤΙCΘΡ
+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει [τῶ] σῶ [δ]ούλω Δα(υὶ)δ β'μανδάτ(ωρι) [(καὶ)] ἐκ
προ(σώπου) τῆς Θ(ρά)κης

1243. Κατακαλῶν σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ τουρμάρχης Θράκης (XIth century)

Archeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22194. D. 23-25 (20) 2.5 mm. W. 7.40 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 227; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.11a.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform monogram (pl. I.10) consisting of the invocation: ΘΚ ΡΩ. In each quarter, a small sphere.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΚΑΤΑΚ | .ΠΑΘ'ΚΑΝ | .CΤΡΟΜ. | .ΗΘΡΑ. | ΗC
+ Θ(εοτό)κε βω(ήθει) Κατακ(αλῶν) [σ]παθ(αρ)οκαν[δ(ιδάτω)] (καὶ)
τρομ(ά)[ρχ]η Θρά[κ]ης

1244. Μιχαὴλ Κουρτίκιος τοποτηρητὴς τῆς Θράκης (Xth-XIth c.),

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-26 (21) 3 mm. W. 12.00 g. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation, especially the obverse which is oxidated.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 383a.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter ornamented with three balls (r. hand) and globus (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΙΧΑΙΑ | ΤΟΠΟΤΕΡ | ΤΙΤ'ΘΡΑΚ | CΤ'Κ8Ρ | ΤΗΚ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Μιχαὶλ τοποτερ(η)τι τ(ῆς) Θράκ(η)ς τ(ῶ) Κουρτήκ(η)

1245-1247. Βασιλικά κομμέρκια τῆς Θράκης (808-809 and 810-811)

1245. Archeological Base, Develt. Found during archeological excavations in the ancient city in the so-called "Ancient theatre" in 1989. D. 26-26 mm; field ? mm; thickness 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Portions of the representation and inscription are out of the blank.

Ed. Балболова-Иванова М. Деvelt през VIII-X в.- Векове, 1-2, 1991, с. 55; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.13a.

1246. Private collection (a plaster cast was given to us by D. Draganov from the Regional Historical Museum in Yambol). It helps define the circumstances concerning the finding of the seal. The surface is oxidized.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.13b.

1247. Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-25 (25)3-4 mm, W. 14.758 g. The imprint is incomplete because it was struck on the lower part of the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.13c.

The three specimens were struck in different boulloteria.

No direct parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Nikephoros I, bearded on l., and Staurakios, beardless on r., facing; both wear crown with cross, divitision and chlamys. In field above cross.

Below busts: a-b: + Γ = (Ἰνδικτιῶνος) γ'
c: + Β = (Ἰνδικτιῶνος) β'

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

ΤΩΝΒ' | .ΟΜΕΡΚΙ | .ΝΤΙCΘ
Τῶν β(ασιλικῶν) [κ]ομέρκι[ω]ν τις Θ(ρά)κης

24A. Θράκης καὶ Μεσοποταμίας

1248-1249. Δαμιανὸς Δοβρομιρὸς ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ δοῦξ Θράκης καὶ Μεσοποταμίας (971-?)

A.

1248. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 20152. D. 28-28 (27) 4.5 mm. W. 21.45 g. Good and complete imprint, but some of the letters, especially on the reverse, are effaced.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.14 a; Jordanov, Family Names, no.168.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines, preceded by an ornament:

- . - | +ΔΑΜΙ | ΑΝΩΑΝ | ΘΝΠΑΤΩ | ΠΑΤΡΗ | ΚΙΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΚΕΔ8 | .ΗΘΡΑ | ..CΣΜΕ | CΟΠΟΤΑ | ΜΗΑC
+Δαμιανῶ ἀνθύπάτω πατρηκίω κὲ δου[κ]ῆ Θρά[κ]ης (καὶ) Μεσοποταμίας

B.

1249. Archaeological Museum Preslav, no. 16915. D. 26-28 (22 ?) 2 mm. W. 6.58 g. Incomplete imprint, the final letters are missing and some were later effaced.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.35.14b; Jordanov, Family Names, no.169.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ΔΑΜΗ | Ν'ΑΝΘΥ | Τ'ΠΑΤΡΙ | ΚΕΔΟΝ | ΚΗ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΡΑΚΗ. | ΕΜΕCΟΠ. | ΤΑΜΗΑCΩ | ΔΟΡΡΟΜ. | ΡΟ-

+Δαμη[α]ν(ῶ) ἀνθυ[πά]τ(ω) πατρι[κ(ίω)] κὲ δουκὴ Θράκη[ς κ]ὲ

Μεσοπ[ο]ταμίας (τ)ῶ Δοβρομ[ι]ρο

24B. Θράκης καὶ Ἰωαννουπόλεως

1250-1260. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης καὶ Ἰωαννουπόλεως (?-975)

A.

1250. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17565. D. 23-26 (22) 3 mm. W. 9.77 g. Incomplete but well preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 239; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35B.15Aa; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 623.

1251. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17214. D. 18-22 (22) 2 mm. W. 3.78 g. Incomplete but well preserved imprint. The blank was smaller than the dies.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 240; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35B.15Ab; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 624.

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | ΛΕΩΝ | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | CTRATH | Γ'ΘΡΑΚΗ | - ? -

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ο - | ΣΙΩ | ΑΝΝ8ΠΟ | Λ'ΟCΑΡΑ | ΚΙΝΟΠ8 | - Λ -

Λέων β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατηγ(ὸς) Θράκη(ς) (καὶ)

Ἰωαννουπόλ(εως) ὁ Σαρακινόπουλ(ος)

B.

1252. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to collection of RHM-Shumen in December 2007). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 28-28.5 (25) 3 mm. W. 10.58 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint.

Subsequently holed and broken at the opening.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | . ΕΟΝ | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ'S | CTRATI . | ΘΡΑΚΙC | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ο - | ΚΕ . . | . ΝΟΠΟΛΕ' | . CΑΡΑΚΙ | . Ο . 8Λ' | - ο -

[Λ]έον β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατι[γ(ὸς)] Θράκης κὲ

[Ἰωα]νο(υ)πόλε(ως) [ὁ] Σαρακι[ν]ό[π]ουλ(ος)

This specimen was struck in an unknown to date boulloterion. This fact corroborates the ascertainment of a longer period or more active correspondence simultaneously.

C.

1253-1257. The five specimens (recently we documented two other specimens from Preslav) were struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 241-243; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35B.15B; Jordanov, Family Names, nos. 625-629.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | +ΛΕΟ | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | SCTPAT | ΗΓΩ | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΡΑ | ΚΙCSIAN | ΟΠΟΛ'ΟCΑ | ΡΑΚΙΝΟ | Π8ΛΟ'

+Λέο(ν) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατηγ(ὸς) Θράκης (καὶ) Ἰανοπόλ(εως)

ὁ Σαρακινόπουλο(ς)

D.

1258. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17638. D. 24-26 (24) 3 mm. W. 11.30 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 244; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35B.15C; Jordanov, Family Names, nos. 630.

1259. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 250. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-26 mm. Incomplete but well preserved imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, nos. 630A.

1260. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to the collection of RHM-Shumen in December 2007). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 25-26 (24) 3 mm. W. 9.46 g. Well-centered and complete imprint. However certain letters are effaced or did not print.

Unpublished

The three specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΛΕΟ | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | SCTPAT | ΗΓΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΡΑ | ΚΙCSIAN8 | ΠΟΛΕΟCΟ | CΑΡΑΚΙΝ | ΟΠ8Λ'

+Λέο(ν) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατηγ(ὸς) Θράκης (καὶ) Ἰανουπόλεος

ὁ Σαρακινόπουλ(ος)

1261-1265. Θεοφάνης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης καὶ Ἰωαννουπόλεως (70s-80s of the X c.)

1261-1264. The four specimens were struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 245-248; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.16.

No parallels known.

1265. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain (Preslav ?). D. 15-28 mm, W. 3.8 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

1261-64. +ΚΕΡΟ | .Θ'ΤΩΩ | . 8ΛΩΘΕΟ . | AN'R'A'C | ΠΑΘ'Ρ'
1265. . ΚΕΡΟ | . .ΤΩΩ | . . . ΩΘΕ . . | . . R'A'C | . . Θ'Ρ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

CTPAT | ΓΟΘΡΑ. | .SIΩΠΟ|ΛΕΟС |

- . - | ΚΕСТ . . | ΤΙΓΟ . . | ANN . . . | ΟΛ . . .

1261-64. +Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θ(ει) τῷ σῷ [δ]ούλῳ Θεο[φ]άν(η)

β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(ά)ρ(ί)ω (καὶ) στρατ(η)γο Θρά[κ(η)ς] (καὶ) Ἰω(αννου)πόλεος

1265. [+] Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θ(ει) τῷ σῷ [δ]ούλῳ Θε[οφ]άν(η)

β'(πρωτο)σ[πα]θ(ά)ρ(ί)ω κέ στ[ρα]τιγο [Ἰω]ανν[ου]πόλ[εος]

The new specimen has introduced a certain disturbance in the reading of the text. The obverse was undoubtedly struck with the same die as the previous four specimens. However the reverse is clearly different. The available letters as well as the restored missing ones record solely the strategos of Ἰωαννουπόλεος. How should we interpret that? Either the union was no longer in existence or he represented himself solely as strategos of Ioannopolis to a specific addressee.

1266. Σταυράκιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης καὶ Ἰωαννουπόλεως (70s-80s of the X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22938. D. 12-21 (over 20) 1.5 mm. Half of a specimen whose surviving portion is erased and the image and letters are hardly visible.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 249; Jordanov, G. Names. no. 35.17.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Michael standing, holding labarum (r. hand) and globus (l. hand). Incomplete circular inscription along border of dots: .APXI. || T....

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..TAV | ..K'R'A'C | ...SCT | ..T'Θ.A | ...AN. | ..Λ

[+] Ἀρχι[σ]τ[ρά]τηγε β(οήθει) [Σ]ταυ[ρα]κ(ί)ω β'(πρωτο)σ[πα]θ(αρίω)] (καὶ)

στ[ρα]τ(ηγῷ) Θ[ρ]ά[κ(η)ς] (καὶ) Ἰ(ω)αν[ου]πόλ(εως)

1267-1268. Νικηφόρος Ξιφίας β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης καὶ Ἰωαννουπόλεως (?-986)

1267. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18512. D. 27-28 (22?) 2.1 mm. W. 11.00 g. Maybe the imprint was once complete but the copy is badly preserved and broken in two with a piece missing in the upper part. The surface is covered with thick oxides and eroded in some places. All this renders the reading difficult.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 250; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 35.18.

1268. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to the collection of RHM-Shumen in December 2007). Find-spot: disc. of Haskovo. However, Preslav is a more probable find-spot. D. 30-30 (23) 4 mm. W. 15.62 g. Imprint in a good state of preservation. Chipped. Weak imprint on the obverse which renders the reading difficult.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Incomplete circular inscription: C . . . POC || . . HMI continuing in the quarters between arms of patriarchal cross on three steps represented in the middle O..-PΩ || ΚΑΙ - T.. = Σ[ταυ]ρός [ε]ημι ο...ρω καὶ τ....

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

1. +ΝΙΚ . |ΦΟΡ' . . . A | Θ'SCTP . . . | ΘΡΑΚΗ . . . | ΑΝΩΠΟΛΕ |

ΟCΟΞΙΦΕ | -A . -

2. . ΝΙΚΙ | . ΟΡ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'SCTPATI . | ΘΡΑΚΗΣ . . | ΑΝΩΠΟ . . |

ΟCΟΞΙΦ . | - AC -

+Νικιφόρ(ος) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατι[γ(ος)] Θράκης κ[ἐ] Ἰ(ω)ανωπόλ[ε]ος ὁ Ξιφέας

1269. Ἀδράλεστος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Θράκης καὶ Ἰωαννουπόλεως (last quarter of the Xth century)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17262. D. 15-24 (20?) 2 mm. Low-quality imprint of which only half is preserved.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 290; Jordanov, G. Names. No. 35.19.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- o - | +ΑΔ.. | ΛΕC... | Α'CΠ... | ΡΗ.. | - o -

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

...ΚΠ |Π8 |ΑΚ. |ΑΚ. |ΑΝΟ | ..Λ

+ Ἀδ[ρά]λεσ[τος] (πρωτο)σπ[αθ]άρ[η]ος (καὶ) ἐκ π[ροσώ]που [τῆς Θρ]άκ[ης] (καὶ) Ἰω[αννο]υ[πόλ]εως

24C.Θράκης καὶ Δρίστρας.

1270-1271. Δαυὶδ πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Θράκης καὶ Δρίστρας (1000-?)

1270. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 115. Found in 1949 among coins from Pliska. D. 27-29 (27) 2.5 mm, W. 9.83 g. Poor and illegible imprint, corroded.

Ed. Маслев, Печати, 448-450; Йорданов, Плиска, № 13; Jordanov, G. Names. no. 35. 20a.

1271. RHM-Silistra, no. 46. Found on the bank of the Danube by Al. Boev. Only half is preserved. D. 12-24 mm; thickness 2.5 mm.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, II, № 5; Jordanov, G. Names. no. 35.20b.

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Rather damaged bust of a military saint, probably St. Theodore. Visible are his bearded face and a spear and a shield in his hands. Badly preserved vertical inscription: Θ-Θ -O||

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) +.ΑΔΑ' | CΠΑΘΑΡ' | . . PAT' | . . A... | ΔΡΙCΤΡ'

b) | .ΠΑ . . . | SCTP . . | Θ'ΡΑ... | ΔΡΙ . . .
a+b: +[Δ]α(υ)δ (πρωτο)σπαθάρ(ιος) (καὶ) στρατηγός) Θρά[κης (καὶ)]
Δρίστρ(ας)

24D. Θράκης καὶ Μακεδονίας

1272. Πέτρος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσोटρικλίνου, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου, Θράκης καὶ Μακεδονίας (XIth century)

Private collection (St. Billik from Sofia). Find-spot: not specified. D. 26-26.5 mm. W. 9.374 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35. 21

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

ΠΕΤ.. | Α'ΣΠΑΘ'. | ΠΙΤ'ΧΤ. | ΚΛΗΝ. | ΚΡΙ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΠΙΤ' | ΙΠΟΔΡ' | .ΘΡΑΚ' | .ΙΜΑΚ' | ..ΝΙ'

Πέτ[ρος] (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) [ἐ]πὶ τ(οῦ) χρυσοτ[ρι(ι)]κλήν[ου] κρι[τ(ῆς)] [ἐ]πὶ
τ(οῦ) ἵποδρ(ό)[μ(ου)] Θράκ(ης) [κ(α)]ι Μακ(ε)[δο]νί(ας)

1273. Ἰωάννης Ῥαδηνός βεστάρχης, κριτῆς τοῦ βήλου, Θράκης καὶ Μακεδονίας (70s-80s of the XI century)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21579. D. 29.6-30 (23) 3 mm. W. 18.18 g. A complete imprint, very well-preserved. Nevertheless, some of the peripheral letters are slightly erased. It has been partially harmed with a pickaxe during its discovery by me.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 251; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.35D.22; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no.594.

Parallels: unpublished lead seal from Zacos, III, see **Wassiliou**, *Seibt*, p. 44, n. 119.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with a medallion of Christ before her. On either side sigla:

MP || ΘV : Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΙΩΡΕCΤΑΡ | ΧΗΚΡΙΤΗΤ8 | ΡΗΛ'ΘΡΑΚΗC | ΚΕΜΑΚΕΔΟ |
ΝΙΑΤΩΡΑ | ΔΗΝΩ

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Ἰω(άννη) βεστάρχη κριτῇ τοῦ βήλ(ου), Θράκης κὲ
Μακεδονία(ς) τῷ Ραδηνῷ

1274. Στέφανος ἀσηκρῆτης καὶ κριτῆς Θράκης καὶ Μακεδονίας (XIth century)

National Historical Museum, Sofia. Found in 1995 during archeological excavations in Silistra. D. 17-25 mm. Half preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35. 23

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕ.. | ΤΩCΩ.. | ΛΩCΤ... | .CHK.. | T.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..PI | ..ΘΡΑ | ..CΚΑΙ | ..ΚΕΔ. | ..AC

+Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ [δού]λῳ Στ[εφ(ά)ν(ω) ἀ]σηκ[ρή]τ[η] [(καὶ) κ]ρι[τῇ]
Θρά[κη]ς καὶ [Μα]κεδ[ονί]ας

1275. Νικόλαος Ζουναρᾶς κριτῆς Θράκης καὶ Μακεδονίας (last quarter, XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-35 (30) ? mm. W. 19.5 g. The depiction of the obverse is completely obliterated and cut. The first letters of all lines on the reverse are missing.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35D.24; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 226.

Parallels. **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 162, no. 1. Now in the Hermitage (M-6044), see **Шандровская**, *Сфрагистика*, № 703. In the Hermitage collection there are two other bullae of the same type (M-125; M-10647), see **Seibt**, *Bleisiegel*, S. 235, n.3.

Obv. Completely obliterated surface.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ'. | ΙΚΟΛΑΩ | .PITHΘΡΑ | .ICKAIMA | .ΕΔΟΝΙΑC | ΤΩΖΟΝ | .ΑΡΑ

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει [Ν]ικαλάω [κ]ριτῇ Θρά[κ]ις καὶ Μα[κ]εδονίας τῷ
Ζουναρᾶ

25. Θρακησίων

1276. Σισίνιος χαρτουλάριος τῶν Θρακισιάνων (VIIIth century)

In my previous publication, I used a plaster cast from the collection of Prof. T. Gerassimov. Uncertain place of storage of the original. A notice on the reverse reports that the original was in possession of Dr. Haralanov. Currently in the Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 150. D.25-25 (24) 4.5 mm. W. 15.57 g. Incomplete imprint. The peripheral letters of the monogram did not print or were subsequently effaced.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 35.12.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (PI.I.5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ . IC | . NNHΩX | . ΡΤΟΝΛΑ | ΤΩΝΘΡΑ | ΚΙCΙΑ

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ [Σ]ισ[ι]ννήω χ[α]ρτουλα(ρίω) τῶν
Θρακισιά(νων)

For the difference between Θρακησίων and Θρακισιάνων, see **Nessbit and Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 3, 1-2.

1277. Ἰωάννης? πατρίκιος, β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγός τῶν Θρακησίων (IX -X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14700. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Develt. D. 22.5-24.5 mm; field 22.3 mm; thickness 4.5 mm. W. 6.80 g. A well-centered and uniform but incomplete

imprint. Holed twice in its upper part.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 35.3; **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 292.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:

+ΚΕΡΟΗ.....VΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..ΩΑΝ. | .ΑΤΡΙΚ' Ρ'. | ΣΠΑΘΑΡ'ΣC | ΤΡΑΤΗΓΩ. | ΩΝΘΡΑΚΙC

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοή[θει τῷ σῶ δο]ύλω [Ἰ]ωάν[η or [Μαρ]ιαν[ῶ π]ατρικ(ίω)

β'[(πρωτο)]σπαθαρ(ίω) (καὶ) στρατηγῶ [τ]ῶν Θρακησ(ίων)

1278. Ἰωάννης βεστάρχης, μέγας χαρτουλάριος, κριτὴς τοῦ βήλου καὶ τῶν Θρακησίων (the 70s of the XI century)

Unknown place of preservation. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 31-32 mm. Well-centered seal but some portions of the inscription are damaged or poorly printed.

Ed. **Мухомов, Печати**, № 43; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 36.1.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same boulloterion has been offered for sale at an auction in Zurich (see Zurich, Auction 26. 7-8 November 1994, no. 651).

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne, holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla:

MP || ΘV. Inscription between two borders of dots:

+ΘΚΕΡΟΗ... ΩΡΕCΤΑΡ...ΕΓΑΛΩΧΑΡΤΟV'

Rev. Inscription continues between two borders of dots:

+ΚΡΙΤΗΤΟVΡΗΛΟVΚΑΙΤΩΝΘ.Α..CΙΩΝ

In the middle, bust of St. George holding spear (r. hand) and shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-Γ-Ε || Ω-Ρ-Γ'

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοή[θει Ἰ]ω(άννη) βεστάρ[χη μ]εγάλω χαρτου(λαρίω) κριτῇ τοῦ βήλου καὶ τῶν Θ[ρ]α[κ]ησίων

1279. Ν., καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν Θρακησίων (IX c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15123. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 119. Find-spot: Melnitsa. D. 14.5-25 (?) 5 mm. W. 8.34 g. Incomplete imprint. Half preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 300.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of cruciform invocative monogram. In the quarters: .. - .. || Δ8-..

Rev. Parts of the last two lines followed by a decoration: plant ornament (fleurons).

..... | | | ΤΩΝ ... | ΚΗCΙΩΝ |

..... στρατηγῶ] τῶν [Θρα]κησίων

26. Insulae (Νῆσοι)

1280-1281. Theodorus Praefectus Insularum (Vth-VIth centuries)

1280. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-24 mm. Good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 37. 1.

1281. Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna, no. 480). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-22 mm. W. 9.00 g. Good imprint. A fragment missing.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in different boulloteria.

Parallels: **Rostovtsew-Prou**, no. 825; **Zacos, Seals**, I, no. 2928, but they were struck in a different boulloterion.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

1.Th | Ε ΟΔΟ | ROs

2.ThΕ | ΟΔΟ | RO *

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

1. PRΕ | FECTI | INSΥI

2. PRΕ | FECTI | INSΥ Is

Theodoros Prefecti Insularum)

27. Ἰταλλίας

1282. Μιχαὴλ ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω Ἰταλλίας (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 34. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-21 (over 21) 2 mm. W. 5.24 g. Incomplete imprint. Nevertheless it was additionally shaped with a blade.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Decorative cross, set within a border of dots and adroned with pelets, mounted on a ball from which fleurons rise to the second bar. Traces of a circular inscription :

..... CΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+MΛ.. | ΗΛΑΝ.. | ΠΑΤΩΠ.. | ΡΙΚΙΩS.. | ΤΕΠΑ... | .ΤΑΛΙ.

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή[θει τῷ] σῶ δο]ύλ(ω) Μι[χα]ήλ ἀν[θυ]πάτ(ω) π[ατ]ρικί(ω) (καὶ)

[κα]τεπά[νω Ἰ]ταλί[α(ς)]

Katepano of Italy bearing this name and title was reported for the years 970 and 975 (see **Falkenhausen, Untersuchen**, nos. 29-30).

28 Ἰωαννουπόλεως

1283-1288. Κατακαλὼν β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Ἰωαννουπόλεως (971-?)

A.

1283-1285. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav

Ed. **Йорданов, Преслав**, № 252-254; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 38A.1a-c.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. In the middle, Θ; eight rays focus on it; the lower extremities of four rays are engraved with small spheres and the other four rays with arrows upwards. The higher extremities are engraved with letters consisting of the invocation: +ΚΕΡΘΤΩCΩΔ'.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΑΤΑ | ΚΑΛΟΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'SC | ΤΡΑΤΙΗΑ | Ν8ΠΟΛ'
+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Κατακαλὸ(ν) β'(πρωτο) σπαθ(αρίῳ)
(καὶ) στρατι(γῷ) 'Η(ω)αννουπόλ(εος)

B.

1286. Private collection. Probably originates from Preslav. D. 29-31 mm. Incomplent imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 38A.1d.

1287-1288. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 255-256; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 38Ba-b.

1288A.

Archaeological Museum Preslav, field no. 30367. Found in the course of regular archaeological excavations around the building of the archives of the strategos of Preslav, sector Northwest, square 27, depth 1.40 m, on 24th September 2008. D. 20-27 (?) 3 mm. Fragment of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished

The four specimens were struck with the same low dies as the preceding four specimens.

No parallels known.

Obv. Pentagram; in the middle, small sphere; at the top of every ray, similar sphere; in each field between the rays, other five spheres.

Rev. Inscription as last, struck with the same die:

+ΚΑΤΑ | ΚΑΛΟΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'SC | ΤΡΑΤΙΗΑ | Ν8ΠΟΛ'
. | | . . . Θ'SC | . . . ΤΙΗΑ | ΟΛ'

The three specimens were struck with the same low dies as the preceding four specimens.

No parallels known.

1289-1290. Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Ἰωαννουπόλεως (970s)

1289-1290. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 257-258; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 38.2 a-b.

1291. Private collection. Probably it has been taken out of Preslav. D. 23-26.5 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 38.2 c.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base. Circular inscription along border of dots: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΠΕΤΡ | ΟΡ'Α'CΠΑ | Θ'SCTPA | ΤΙΓΩΙΑ. | . 8ΠΟΛ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Πέτρο β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ) στρατιγῷ
'Ιωα[νν]ουπόλ(εως)

28A. Ἰωαννουπόλεως καὶ Δοροστόλου

1292-1310A. Λέων Σαρακινόπουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Ἰωαννουπόλεως καὶ Δοροστόλου (?- 975)

A.

1292-1304. The thirteen specimens were struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 259-271; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 38a.3; Jordanov, *Family Names*, nos. 604-616.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

ooo | +ΛΕΟΝ | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ'S | CΤΡΑΤΙΓ' | ΙΩΑΝ8Π | ΟΛ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ooo | +SΔΟΡ | ΟCΤΟΛΟ | ΟCΑΡΑΚ | ΙΝΟΠΝΛ
+ Λέον β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατιγ(ὸς) Ἰωαννουπόλ(εως) (καὶ)
Δοροστόλο(ν) ὁ Σαρακινόφυλ(ος)

B.

1305-1310: The six specimens were struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 272-277; Jordanov, *G. Names*, 38B.3; Jordanov, *Family Names*, nos. 617-623.

1310A. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav, sector C, square 16. Found in the course of archaeological excavations under the supervision of T. Mihailova (22. 06. 2005). D. 14-27 mm. Half preserved.

Ed. Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 623A.

The seven specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. The letters are arranged in the same way as in the last thirteen but they are imprinted with a different die. Perhaps the last thirteen are copied or vice versa.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ooo | +SΔΟΡ | ΟCΤΟΛΟ | ΟCΑΡΑΚΙ | ΝΟΠΝΛ

29. Καπαδοκίας

1311-1312. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Καπαδοκίας (end of the Xth century)

The two specimens were struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 278a-б; Jordanov, *G. Names*, No. 39.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base. Circular inscription along border of dots: ..ΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+KONC | .ΠΑ'ΚC. | .ΑΠΑΔ. | ΚΙΑC
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε] βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Κονστ(α)[ν(τίνῳ)] πατρ(ικίῳ) κ(ἐ)

στ[ρ(ατηγῶ) Κ]απαδ[ο]κίας

W. Seibt (*BZ*, 98, S. 132) assumes that the name of the strategos was Kontostephanos, but this is only a whim of a possible reading.

30. Κερασούντος

1313. Κοσμάς ἀπο ὑπάτων καὶ γενικὸς κομμερκιάριος Κερασούντος (689-690)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 20. Find-spot: uncertain (Istanbul ?). D. 26-33 (27) 4 mm, W. 17. 76 g. Incomplete imprint not only because the blank was too small for the die. Some of the letters were effaced later.

Ed. **Μυσημόβ.** *Печати*, № 24; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 40. 1

Parallels: **Панченко**, Каталог № 403.

Obv. The emperor (Justinian II) standing frontally, beardless, wearing a crown and chlamys and holding a globus cruciger (r. hand) and a scepter cross (l. hand). Portion of letter Γ', on r. = [(Ἰνδικτιών)] γ'. Circular inscription above the head of the emperor on l.: +ΚΟC..... ΝΙΚ8

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.M | ΜΕΡΚΙΑ | ΡΙ8ΑΠΟ |..ΚΗCΚ |.P.C. |

+ Κοσ[μᾶ ἀπο ὑπάτων καὶ γε]νικοῦ [κο]μμερκιαρίου ἀπο[θή]κης

Κ[ε]ρ[α]σ[ο]ύντος]

The dating and attribution of the toponym was a problem for publishers concerned with the reading of the text. B. Panchenko read the toponym as Ἀγκύρας and suggested that the seal could be generally dated to the VIIth century. N. Mushmov sought some similarity between the emperor presented and Constance II (641-668). G. Zacos (*Seals*, I, p. 147, n. 2) seems to have proposed the most acceptable dating and toponym considering the known seals of Kosmas and his mandates in various kommerkiarios including Mesembria (see **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, p. 118).

31. Κιβεριώτων

1314. Νικηφόρος β'σπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῶν Κιβηριοτῶν (IXth century)

National Historical Museum, Sofia. Submitted to the museum by the police. D. 24.5-28.5 mm. Incomplete imprint and poorly-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 41.1

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5). In the quarters: ... || Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.... | .ΦΟΡΟ. | .ΠΑΘ'SC. | .ΤΗΓ'ΤΩ. | ΚΙΒVP'

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει [τῷ σῷ] δούλῳ Νικηφόρο [β'σ]παθα(ρίῳ) (καὶ)

σ[τρ(α)]τηγ(ῶ) τῷ[v] Κιβυρ(ιοτῶν)

32. Λογγοβαρδίας

1315. Στέφανος Σερβλίας β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κομμερκιάριος Λογγοβαρδίας (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14375. Purchased from Bogomil Alexandrov from Shumen. Found by Yanko Todorov from Shumen near the village of Dobri Dol, district of Plovdiv. D. 28-28 mm; field 27 mm; thickness 3.5 mm. W. 14.61 g. Incomplete imprint. Some fragments are broken. The illegible imprint and unusual filling render the reading of the text difficult.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Dobri dol, no. 23; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 45.1; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 645.

No direct parallels.

Obv. St. George standing, holding a long spear (r. hand), l. hand set on a shield resting on the ground and a sword on chest over back. Vertical inscription in two columns:

..Γ-Ε-Ω-P || Γ-I-O-C : [Ο ἄ(γιος)] Γεώργιος.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- + - | ΚΟVMEP | ΚΙΑΡ'Α.ΓΓΙ|..ΡΔ'Ρ'Α'CΠA | ΘΑΡ'CTEΦA |.OCEPRA |AC

+ Κουμμερκιάρ(ιος) Λ[ο]γγι[βα]ρδ(ίας) β'(πρωτο)σπαθάρ(ιος) Στέφα[ν(ος)] ὁ

Σερβλ(ί)ας

33. Μακεδονίας

1316-1318. Ν., β'σπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (IXth century)

1316. RHM-Haskovo. Found near the village of Izvorovo, district of Haskovo, in the Kaleto locality. D. 21-21 mm; field (?); thickness 4 mm. Incomplete imprint especially on the obverse.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.1a

Obv. Portion of a cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.21). In the quarters:

... - CΩ || ... -ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ΩR'CP... | SCTPA... | Γ'MAK... | ON...

+ Χριστέ βοήθει [τῷ σῷ] δούλῳ.....β'σπ[αθ(αρίῳ)] (καὶ) στρα[τη]γ(ῶ)

Μακ[εδ]ον[ί]α(ς)]

1316A. RHM- Haskovo, no 119. Found during archaeological excavations near the village of Izvorovo, district of Haskovo, in the Kale area, at the entrance tower in 2007. D. 25-25 (?) 3.4 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation, open along the channel, fragment broken.

Unpublished

1317. RHM-Yambol. Found in the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo. D. 22-23 mm; field (22 ?) mm; thickness 4.5 mm. Incomplete imprint, as above.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.1b.

1318. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, probably near the previous. D. 21-23 mm. Incomplete imprint, as above.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.1c.

Obv. Portion of a cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5). In the quarters:

ΤΩ- CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1316A | | . CTP . . | Γ'MA . . . | . . IAC

1317 | ΩΡ'CΠA . | SCTRAT | Γ'MAKΕ . | ONI . .

1318 | . . CΠAΘ | .CTRAT | . MAKΕΔ | ON. . .

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) [τῷ σ]ῷ [δού]λῳ.....ω β'σπα[θ(αρίω)] (καὶ)

στρατ(η)γ(ῶ) Μακεδονία(ς)

1319. Θεόκτιστος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (mid-IXth century)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-29 mm. Incomplete imprint with missing letters. Very well preserved specimen.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 46.2.

No parallels known.

Obv. Portion of a cruciform invocative monogram (pl.I.5). In the quarters:

..-CΩ || ..-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+Θ O. | .HCTΩB'.. | .SCTRAT'M. | KΕΔONIA

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) [τῷ] σῷ [δού]λῳ Θεο[κτ]ήστῳ β'[(πρωτο)σπα(θαρίω)]

(καὶ) στρατ(ηγῶ) M[α]κεδονία(ς)

1320. N., πατρίκιος, β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (IXth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14783. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 24-29.5 (28?) 4 mm. W. 18.38 g. Incomplete imprint. The blank was larger than the diameter of the die. A deep scar by corrosion on the reverse.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 46.3.

No parallels known.

Obv. Portion of a cruciform invocative monogram. In the quarters: .Ω-.. || Δ8-..

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | .ΠΑΤΡΙ | ..Α'CΠAΘ | CTPATH | MAKΕ | .ONI.

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) [τ]ῷ [σῷ] δού[λῳ]] πατρι[κ(ίω) β']

(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [(καὶ)] στρατη(γῶ) Μακε[δ]ονί[α(ς)]

1321. Λέων β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (IXth-Xth c.)

Archeological base, Develt, no. 90. Found during archeological excavations in the kommerkion from its second period in sector Γ-III, sq. 77. D. 19-20 mm; field 19 mm; thickness 3 mm. Blank too small for die. Incomplete imprint, perhaps due to weak pressing.

Ed. *Йорданов, Девет, № 56; Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 46.4

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Between two borders of dots circular inscription:

ΩCΩΔ...

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΛΕΩΝ | T'R'A'CΠA | Θ'.SCTPA | T.Γ'T'MAK | .ΔΩNI'

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ[ούλῳ]Λέων(ι) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(α)[ρ(ίω)] (καὶ)

στρατ[η]γ(ῶ) τ(ῆς) Μακ[ε]δωνί(ας)

1322. Κωνσταντῖνος β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth century)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-26 (26) 4 mm. W.15.5 g. Incomplete imprint. In a poor state of preservation. Holed and torn at the hole.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 46.5.

No parallels known.

Obv. A monogram (Pl. I.17) containing the invocation Κύριε which is continued between the two dotted circles: ROHΘΕITΩC....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+K..CT|ANT.'A'CΠ | AΘ'S.TPAT | HΓΩ.AKΕ | ...AC

+Κύριε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σ[ῷ] δούλῳ] K[ων]σταντ(ίνῳ) [β'][(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω)] (καὶ)

[σ]τρατηγ(ῶ) [M]ακε[δ]ονί[α(ς)]

1323-1324. Σωτήριχος πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth century)

1323. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-26 mm. Incomplete imprint with missing letters. Very well preserved specimen.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 46.6a

1324. Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-24 mm. W. 11.30 g. Three quarters of the specimen are preserved. Poorly preserved surface.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 46.6b

No parallels known.

Unfortunately, I do not have an illustration of the first specimen so as to find out whether they belong to an identical die. The first two lines evidently coincide.

Obv. Portion of a cruciform invocative monogram. In the quarters: ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1323. +CΩT . | PIXΩΠ. | TP'SCT. | MAKΕ.. | ..AC

1324. +CΩ .H | PIXΩΠ. . . | C...KΕ.. | N..

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Σωτ(η)ρίχῳ π[α]τρ(ικίω) (καὶ) στ[ρ](ατηγῶ)

Μακε[δ]ονί[α(ς)]

1325. Γουδέλιος ? β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth-XIth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 11. Found during archeological excavations in the Selishte locality near Preslav, the so-called "Gragdanski complex", sq. G², depth 0.30 m, on 5th May 1974. D. 19-24 mm; field about 22.5 mm; thickness 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. Struck off-center probably because of looseness of

the boulloterion.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.7

No parallels known.

Obv. Fragment of a patriarchal cross with fleurons rising from base. Circular inscription: along border of dots: ΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΓΟΝ. | .ΛΙΟCΡ'. | CΠAΘ'SCT | .ATIG'MA | .ΕΔΟΝ. | ..

[+]Γου[δέ]λιος β'[(πρωτο)]σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στ[ρ]ατηγ(ός) Μά[κ]εδον[ίας]

1326. Θεοφύλακτος πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth-XIth c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain, probably Preslav. D. 25-30 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.8

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'. | ΘΕΟΦ. | ΛΑΚΤΟΠ. | .SCTPA. | .ΓΩ.ΩΝ | ΜΑΚ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)[θ(ει) Θεοφ[υ]λάκτο π[ατ(ρ)ικίω)] (καὶ) στρα[τη]γῶ [τ]ῶν

Μακ(εδόνων)

1327. Ἰσαάκιος πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (XIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17094. D. 23-25 (22) 2 mm. W. 9.10 g. Incomplete imprint, the peripheral letters are missing. The surface is well preserved.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 279; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.9

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps with fleurons rising from base. Circular inscription along border of dots:..... ΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+HCA. | ΠΑΤΡ.. | SCTPA. | .Γ'MAK. | ΔΟ.

[+K(ύρι)ε βοήθει τ]ῶ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Ἰσα[κ(ίῳ)] πατρ[ικ(ίῳ)] (καὶ) στρα[τη]γ(ῶ)

Μακ[ε]δο[ν(ίᾱς)]

1328. Ρωμανὸς πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth century)

RHM-Silistra, not inventoried. Found during archeological excavations in the same town in 1998. D. 29-29 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.10.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore ? standing, holding a long spear (r. hand), l. hand on shield resting on the ground. Inscription on l. and r., almost effaced: ... ||Γ-Ε ...

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

|+ΡΩΜΑ | ΝΩΠΑΤΡ | ΙΚΙΩSC | ΤΡ'Τ'Γ'M | .ΚΕΔ

+ Ρωμανῶ πατρικίῳ (καὶ) στρ(α)τ(η)γ(ῶ) Μ[α]κε(δονίας)

1329-1332. Ρωμανὸς ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth century)

1329. RHM-Shumen, no. 14824/1. Formerly in the collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 25-26 (24) 2.5 mm. W. 7.46 g. Superb state of preservation but incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.11a.

1330. RHM-Shumen, no. 14824/2. Formerly in the collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24.5-24.5 (?) 3 mm. W. 7.92 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.11b.

1331. RHM-Shumen, no. 14730/5. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 23-25 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Poorly preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.11c.

1332. Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-29 mm. Incomplete imprint. Poorly preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.11d.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Theodore standing, holding a long spear (r. hand), l. hand on a shield resting on the ground. Inscription in two columns: O-A-Γ-i || Θ-Ε-O-Δ-.. Traces of the invocation around the image: +K ROHΘI-TΩCΩ....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1329 | . . ΩΜ. | ..CANΘV | .. ΠΑΤΡΙΚ' S | CΤΡΑΤΙΓ'M | ΑΚΕΔΟΝ | . ✥ .

1330 | . ΡΩΜ . | ... ANΘV | ... ΑΤΡΙΚ' . | ... ΑΤΙΓ'M | . ΚΕΔΟΝ | . ✥ .

1331 | | ... NΘV | .. ΠΑΤΡΙΚ' . | . ΤΡΑΤΙΓ'M | .. ΕΔΟΝ | . ✥ .

1332 | . . ΩΜΑ | ... ANΘV | .. ΠΑΤΡΙΚ' S | CΤΡΑΤΙΓ'M | . ΚΕΔΟΝ |

[+]Ρωμα[νὸς] ἀνθύ[π(α)τ(ος)] πατρίκ(ιος) (καὶ) στρατιγ(ός) Μακεδον(ίας)

1333. Ν., β'πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (Xth-XIth century)

Private collection (St. Billik from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-26 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 46.12

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-N I ||K-O-Λ' Circular inscription along border of dots: +ΑΓ'ΝΙΚ'ΡΟΗ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΑΛ.. | ICR'A'CΠA | Θ'SCTPATH | .ΜΑΚΕΔΩ | .HAC

+ Ἀγ(ι)ε Νικ(όλαε) βοή[θει τ]ῶ σῶ δούλῳ].αλ..ις β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) (καὶ)

στρατηγ(ῶ) Μακεδω[ν]ήας

1334. N., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρίκλινου καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15077. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 73. Find-spot: Strandzha region, probably Melnitsa? D. 13-25 (20) 2 mm. W. 3.14 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 306.
No parallels known.

Obv. Fragment of a patriarchal cross with fleurons rising from base. Circular inscription along border of dots: ΔΟΥ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ΣΠΑΘ. | ΠΙΤΟΧΡ. ... | ΛΙΝΟΚΕΣ ... | ... ΜΑΚΕΔ. | .
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ] δού[λω β'(πρωτο)]σπαθ[αρίῳ ἐ]πὶ το(ῦ)
χρ(υσο)[τρικ]λίνο(υ) κὲ σ[τρατ(ηγῶ)] Μακεδ(ωνίας)

1335. N., πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρίκλινου καὶ στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (X c.)

Historical Museum, Nesebar, no. 2148. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialo). D. 23-25 (24.) 2.5 mm. W. 7.44 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint. Parts of the dies remained outside the blank. A whole field did not print on the reverse.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons. Between two border of dots beginning at top, circular inscription: ΤΟCΟΔΟ ...

Rev. Inscription of six or seven lines:

..... | Ο. ΗΚΟΠ. | ... ΑΘΑΡΙΩ. | ... ΤΟΧΡ. | ... ΙΝΟΚΕCΤΡ. | ... ΓΟΜΑ. ΔΟ | ΝΙ ..
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] το σο δού[λο] (πρωτο)σπ[αθ]αρίῳ κ(αὶ) ἐπὶ το(ῦ)
χρυσοτ[ρικ(λ)ίνο(υ)] κὲ στρ[ατ]ηγ[ο] Μα[κε]δονί[ας]

The reading is rendered difficult due to the incomplete and poorly-preserved text. The proper name of this strategos of Macedonia constitutes the main problem.

1336. Δοβρυнос or Δοβρυλος N., στρατηγὸς Μακεδονίας (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14616. Purchased from Emil Kossev from Shumen. Find-spot: Nadarevo, disc. of Targovishte. D. 23-25 (20?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. The relief of the letters is half-erased which makes them unclear thus rendering the reading of the text entirely problematic.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 46.13.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of indeterminate bishop saint with nimbus and beard. The ending of his name visible at r.: Ι-Ω. Traces probably of the invocative inscription visible around the image.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΔΟΡΡΥ. | CΤΡΑΤΙ. | .ΑΚΕΔ... | . ΑΔΡΑ ..
Δοβρυ[ν.] στρατη[γ(ῶ)] Μ[ακεδ(ονί)ας] τῷ Ἀδρα

1337. Ἰωάννης β' σπαθαροκανδιᾶτος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Μακεδονίας (last quarter of the IXth century)

Archeological base, Develt, no. 156. Found during archeological excavations of the kommerkia from its second period, sector Γ-III. sq. 41, depth 0.75 m. D. 11-21 mm; field 20? mm; thickness 2 mm. Originally good imprint but some portions of it are out of the blank. At the present moment only half of it is preserved. Broken along the line of the channel.
Ed. Йорданов, Девелт, № о 57; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 46.14
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Between two borders of dots, fragment of invocation: +ΘΚΕ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

...ΝΝ |Θ'ΚΑ |ΑΤ'ΣΕ | ...ΟCΟΠΟ | ..ΑΚΕΔ'
+Θ(εοτό)κε [βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλω] Ἰωάν[ν]η β'σπα[θ(αρο)κα]νδιδ[άτ(ω)] (καὶ)
ἐ[κ] πρ[ο]σόπο[υ] Μ[ακεδ(ονί)ας]

1338. Θεόφιλος πρωτονοτάριος Μακεδονίας (mid-IXth century).

RHM-Kurdzhali. Discovered during excavations in the Perperek fortress.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 46.15
No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl.I.8). In the quarters: . Ω-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

Θ ΟΦΙ | ΛΩ.ΝΟ. | ΑΡ'ΜΑΚ. | ΔΟΝΗΑ
Θεοτόκε βοήθει [τῷ] σῶ δούλω Θεοφίλω [(πρωτο)]νο[τ]αρ(ί)ω or
[β']νο[τ]αρ(ί)ω Μακ[ε]δονήα

33Α. Μακεδονίας καὶ Ἀδριανουπόλεως

1339. Στέφανος πατρίκιος, πραιπόσιτος, καὶ πραιτῶρ Μακεδονίας καὶ Ἀδριανουπόλεως (third quarter of the XIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found during archeological excavations in the monastery of Patleya near Preslav in the summer of 1990. D. 15-20 mm; field (?); thickness 3 mm. A fragment about a quarter. Originally good imprint and well-preserved surface.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 46.16
Parallels: Mordtmann Εὐρώπης σ. 86. Gorny & Mosch Auction 156, 5 March 2007. Lot number: 2543. Struck in the same boulloterion. This specimens makes possible the deciphering of the seal from Preslav.

Obv. Inscription of six lines:

..... | ΤΩC... | ΤΩC... | .ΤΕΦ... | ΠΡΙΠ... | ΠΩC...

Rev. *Obv.* Inscription of six lines:

..... | |ΚΕΔΟ |SΑΔΡΙ | ...ΠΟΛΕ | -.C-
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σ[ῶ] δού[λω] Σ[τεφ(άν)ω] π(ατ)ρι(κί)ω π[ραι]π[ω]σ[ίτ]ω

βέστη (καὶ) πραιτωρι Μα]κεδο[νίας] (καὶ) Ἀδρι[ανου]πόλε[ω]ς

34. Μεσημβρίας

1340. Ἀλέξιος β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ κλεισουράρχης Μεσημβρίας (Xth century),

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22131. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 20-26 (20?) 3 mm. W. 7.50 g. The imprint is not complete and is broken in two with a fragment missing.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 280; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Along border of dots, circular inscription:

+ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩ...ΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΑΛΞΕ.. | Ρ'.ΠΑΘ'Κ. | ΝΔ'ΣΚΛΙC8 | ΡΑΡ.ΜΕCΗ | Μ..ΙΑC

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ [σῶ δ]ούλῳ Ἀλεξί[ω] β'[σ]παθ(αρο)κ[α]νδ(ιδάτῳ) (καὶ)
κλ(ισου)ράρχ(η) Μ[ε]σημ[β]ρί[α]ς

1341. Βασίλειος ? β' σπαθαροκανδιδάτος καὶ κλεισουράρχης Μεσημβρίας (IXth-Xth centuries)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14525. Donation from Dimitar Yordanov from Shumen. Find-spot: uncertain, probably Preslav. D. 15-23 mm. Half of originally good imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.2.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Between two borders of dots, inscription:

..... ΩCΩΔΟΝΛ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

...CΙ. |CΠΑ | ...ΟΚΑΝΔ | ...IC8ΡΧ | ..CΕΜΡ |

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ[ω] Βα]σι[λει]ω β'[σ]πα[θα]ρ[ο]κ[αν]δ(ιδάτῳ) [(καὶ)
κλ]ισουρ(ά)ρχ(η) [Με]σεμ(β)ρ(ί)ας

1342. Γεώργιος β' σπαθάριος καὶ κλεισουράρχης Μεσημβρίας (IXth-Xth centuries)

Archeological base, Develt, no. 148. Found during geodetic works in the kommerkia, sector D-II, sq. 18/18; 23/28 or 33/38. D. 23-25 (20) 3 mm. W. 8.75 g. Very good imprint, well-preserved.

Ed. Йорданов, Девет, № 58; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.3.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base. Along border of dots, circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΓΕΩΡΓ | ΙΩΡ'CΠΑΘ' | Κ'ΚΛΗCΟVP | ΗΑΡΧ.ΜΕC | ΕΜΡΡ.

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ε)ι τῷ σῶ δούλ(ω) Γεωργίω β'σπαθ(αρίω) κ(αὶ)

κλησουρηάρχ[η] Μεσεμβρ[ί]ας)

1343. Παγκράτιος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῆς μεγάλης εταιρείας καὶ κλεισουράρχης Μεσημβρίας (Xth century)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 664. Found in the area of the Southern Gate of the Inner City of Preslav.

D. 20-20.5 (18) 2.2 mm. W. 5.50 g. Well-preserved but incomplete imprint. The end letters are missing.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 281; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.4.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with a star in each upper quarter; fleurons rising from base. Along border of dots, circular inscription:....ΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΠΑΚΡ | ΑΤ'Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ | .ΠΙΤ'ΜΕΓ'Ε. | .Ρ'SKΛΗ.. | .ΙΑΡΧΜ.. | ..RPIA.

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βο]ήθ(ε)ι τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Πακρατ(ίω) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [ἐ]πὶ
τ(ῆς) μεγ(άλ)ης ἐ[τε]ρ(εί)ας (καὶ) κλει[σουρ]ιάρχ(η) Μ[ε]σημ[β]ρί[α]ς

1344-1345. Νικόλαος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Μεσημβρίας (X c.)

1344. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-24 mm. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

1345. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, field no. 60. Found during excavations of the Ruler's Church in the Inner City of Preslav, Southeastern sector, square 289, depth 0.35 m on 6th July 2006. D. 27-30 (over 27) 3 mm. W. 12. 12 g. Folded imprint which renders the reading difficult. The reading offered below is on the basis of a better preserved specimen which I examined from the collection of NHM in Sofia.

Unpublished

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base up to second traverse bar. From circular inscription: ΕΙΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1344. +ΝΙΚ | ΟΛΑΩΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'SCT | PAT'Γ'MΕ | CIMRPI'

1345. +ΝΙΚ | ΟΛΑΩΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'S . . | PAT'Γ'M . | . . MRPI'

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ]ει τῷ σῶ δ(ούλ)ω Νικολάω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ)
[στ]ρατ(η)γ(ῶ) Μ[ε]σιμ[β]ρί(ας)

These two seals attest to a new unknown to date fact of the administration of Mesembria, when the town had the rank of strategia. There is no information exactly when it was established.

The dating of the seals is generally in the last quarter of the Xth c. It could be assumed that the town was within the boundaries of Byzantium before the year 971 as well thus rendering problematic the determination of the exact date of receipt of the correspondence of this strategos in Preslav. The one possibility is the year 971 which would mean that he took part in the Tzimiskes military campaign in eastern Bulgaria in the same year. A dating before 971 is also possible which would render difficult the explanation to whom in Preslav

he wrote. But the same problem concerns the seals of kleissourarchai of Mesembria from the IXth-Xth centuries found in Preslav.

1346. Βλαδτζέρτης / Βαλατζέρτης μάγιστρος καὶ κατεπάνω Μεσημβρίας (the 60s-70s of the XI century)

RHM-Sliven, no.216. Found during excavations of the stronghold near the village of Zlati vojvoda, district of Sliven, on the embankment of the citadel on 20th August 1993; sq. 69/3; depth 0. 20 m. D. 27-27 mm; field 23 mm; thickness 4 mm. Very well imprinted and excellently preserved specimen.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.5.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8 | ΛΩΡΛΑΔ | ΤΖΕΡΤ | - Η -

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΜΑΓΙC | ΤΡΩCΚΑ | ΤΕΠΑΝΩ | ΜΕCΗΡΠΙ | - ΔC -

+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Βλαδτζέρτη / Βαλατζέρτη μαγίστρῳ (καὶ)
κατεπάνω Μεσημβρίας

For the first time in this publication I have an illustration of an imprint in a fairly good state of preservation, and the question of the name of this katepano of Mesembria can again be open for discussion. According to the publisher of the first specimen (*Zacos, Seals, II*, no. 1059) the name is Βλαδτζέρτης. According to W. Seibt who has worked with the original the name is Βαλατζέρτης (see *Seibt, Geographie Bulgarians*, no. 6). The following letters are visible in the illustration of our specimen: the first letter is R, the second is not very clear, but it could be A or Λ. The third is undoubtedly A, and the fourth is Λ. There are no differences in the next line. The possible readings are Βαλατζέρτης or Βαλατζέρτης

1347. Ν., σπαθαροκανδιδάτος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσотριγκλίνου καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Μεσημβρίας ὁ ἄνθρωπος τοῦ βασιλέος (XIth century).

Private collection (Ivan Yotov from Yambol). Find-spot: the village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo. Dim. 28-29 mm. Weakly imprinted, cracked and holed in the centre due to corrosion. All this renders its text difficult to read.

Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 56; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.6.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding medallion of Christ before her.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

..... | Ρ'ΔΔ'ΕΠΙ. | ΓΚΛ'ΑΝ. | ΓΡΑΦ.. ΕCΗ | ..ΡΙΑ'Ο | ΝΘCΤ. | ΡΑCΙ
[.....σπαθα]ρ(οκαν)δ(ι)δ(ᾱτος) ἐπὶ [τ(οῦ) Χρ(υσοτρι)]γκλ(ίνου) (καὶ)
ἀν[α]γραφ[ε(ὺς) Μ]εση[μβ]ρία(ς) ὁ [ᾱ]νθ(ροπος) τ[οῦ] βασι(λέος).

35. Μεσοποταμίας

1348. Ν.,καὶ στρατηγὸς Μεσοποταμίας (IXth-Xth c.)

RHM-Haskovo. Found in the stronghold near the village of Izvorovo, district of Haskovo. D. 17.7-17.8 (17) 5.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. More than half of the blank is out of the die. Well preserved specimen.
Ed. Йорданов, Марица-Изток, № 5; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 48.1.
No parallels known.

Obv. Portion of invocative cruciform monogram. In the quarters:...-...||. 8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | | ..CΤΡ. | .ΕCΟΠΟ. | .ΜΗΑ

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει [τῷ σῷ δ]ούλῳ(καὶ) στρ(α)[τ(ηγῷ)]

Μ]εσοπο[τα]μία(ς)

The dating of the specimen according to the paleography of some of the letters and its whole appearance is not later than the IXth century. The seal probably belonged to one of the first strategoi of Mesopotamia. It is interesting that the correspondence from the strategos of Macedonia was also received in the same stronghold at the same time (see no. 1316-1316A).

1349. Μιχαήλ βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Μεσοποταμίας (1060s-1070s)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 24644. D. 23-25 (20) 3 mm, 12.40 g. Although the imprint is complete, it was made on the lower part of the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 282; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 48.2.

Parallels: Two specimens are known to have been struck with the same die: *Schlumberger, Inedits, V*, no. 213; *Nesbitt-McGeer-Oikonomides, DOS, 4*, no. 55.9.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΟ | CΟΔΟΥΜ | ΡΕCΤΑΡ | ΧΟΥ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | ΚΕΚΑΤΕ | ΠΑΝΟΜΕ | ΠΑΝΟΜΕ | CΟΠΟΤ | ΜΙΑC

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει το σο δούλ(ῳ) Μιχ(αήλ) βεστάρχου κὲ κατεπάνο
Μεσοποτ(α)μίας

1350-1352. Ν., β'σπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Μεσοποταμίας (IXth cent.)

1350. RHM-Haskovo, no. 1228. Found during archeological excavations in the summer of 1977 in the Assaria locality near the town of Simeonovgrad on the northern slope of the stronghold of Constantia. D. 23.5-25 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Big portions are out of the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Марица-Изток, № 7; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 48.3a.

1351. RHM-Shumen, no. 14784. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-28 (27?) 3 mm. W. 8.58 g. Incomplete imprint. Big portions are out of the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 48.3b.

1352. RHM-Shumen, no. 15066. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 62. Find-spot: fortress south of Dedovo, Plovdiv region. D. 24-27 (?) 3 mm. W. 8.74 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The diameter of the dies was larger than that of the blank.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 310.

1352A. RHM-Haskovo. Found during archaeological excavations on the land of the village of Izvorovo,

Haskovo region, the Kale locality, square N18, depth 0.30 m in the humus, on 26th August 2008. D. 25-27 mm. W. 8. 39 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. Large portion of the dies did not print despite the large blank.
Unpublished

Obv. Portion of invocative cruciform monogram. In the quarters: $\Gamma\Omega$ -C || .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

1350 | .. ΩΡ' . . . | .ΑΡΙΩ . . | ΠΡΟCΟ. | .ΜΕCΟ.. |
1351 | .. ΩΡ'CΠ . | .. ΡΙΩ . . . | . ΡΟC . . . | ΜΕ.....
1352 | .. ΩΡ'CΠ . | .ΑΡΙΩ . . . | . ΡΟCΠΟ. | ΜΕCΟΠ
1352A | .. ΩΡ'CΠ . | .ΑΡΙΩCΕ . | . ΡΟCΠ .. | ΜΕ. . .
+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σ[ῶ δ]ούλῳ ὡ β'σπ[αθ]αρίῳ [(καὶ) ἐκ π]ροσόπο[υ]
Μεσοπ[οτ(αμίας)]

It is impossible to decipher the homonym because of the incomplete imprint. It is interesting that on the three surviving specimens the last letter Ω is preserved. With the new specimen from Dedovo, Plovdiv region, the reading of the toponym is more certain.

The owner of the seal was ἐκ προσώπου of Mesopotamia but what was his position? Either he substituted the titular strategos, or the seal reflected an earlier period when Mesopotamia was not a theme and ἐκ προσώπου was actually a strategos of the smaller theme according to the opinion of Oikonomides (*Oikonomides, Listes*, p. 342).

1353-1355. Λέων β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης Μεσοποταμίας (Xth century)

1353. RHM-Shumen, no. 12340/4. Purchased from Alexander Boev from Silistra. Found in Silistra. D. 25-25 mm; field 29 mm; thickness 0.9 mm. W. 1.67 g. Very clear imprint. All details of the image and text can be seen. The blank is too thin and we do not see a channel for the string. The periphery of the imprint was cut with scissors. A fragment is broken, about a third of the imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 48.4a.

1354. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.160. In my previous publication I used a plaster cast preserved in the collection of Prof. T. Gerassimov. A note on the reverse informs that the original was in Dr. V. Haralanov's collection from Shumen. D. 18-19 (?) 2 mm. W. 3.03 g. The imprint is complete but weak and a little effaced. Moreover, it is struck off-center and shaped later. Probably comes from Silistra, as the other specimens in Dr. V. Haralanov's collection.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 48.4b.

1355. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.179. Find-spot: Silistra. From Dr. Haralanov's collection. D. 20-20 mm. Well-centered and complete imprint.
Unpublished.
The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael in imperial vestments holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus cruciger (l. hand). Along border of dots circular inscription:ΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1353. +ΛΕ | ΩΝ'Ρ'CΠ. | Θ'ΚΑΝΔΔ'. | Τ8ΡΜΑΡΧ' | ΜΕC'Π
1354. +Λ. | ΩΝ'Ρ'CΠ. | Θ'ΚΑΝΔΔ'. | Τ8ΡΜΑΡΧ' | ΜΕC'Π
1355. +ΛΕ | ΩΝ'Ρ'CΠΑ | Θ'ΚΑΝΔΔ'S | Τ8ΡΜΑΡΧ' | ΜΕC'Π
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Λέων(τι) β'σπ[αθ]αροκανδ(ι)δ(άτῳ)]

[(καὶ)] τουρμάρχ(η) Μεσ(ο)π(οταμίας)

The discovery of three specimens of the seals of Leo tourmarches of Mesopotamia raises the question about the possible recipient in Dristra. This private question is connected with another more general one regarding the discovery of the seals of theme Mesopotamia in the Bulgarian lands. Seals of a strategos and three ek prosopou were found on the territory of modern Bulgaria and mainly in the southeastern part. All are dated to the second half of the IXth c. The traditional explanation in such cases is that the armies of this theme were dispatched on a joint expedition to the Balkans and its titulars exchanged correspondence with the local garrisons. However, the large number of the seals is impressive and attests to a regular correspondence and not a casual one. Another interesting fact is that seals of other eastern themes with one or two exceptions are absent from the territory of modern Bulgaria. For example those of kommes of Opsikion (see *Jordanov, G. Names*, no.56 1a-b). Thus the impression is that only the armies of theme Mesopotamia sojourned here, which is not logical. This and other arguments gave Seibt grounds to propose the hypothesis that theme Mesopotamia was established after 800 not in Asia Minor but in the Balkans in the territory to the west of Adrianoupolis and the east of Thessalonike with two administrative and military centers Constantia and Philippopolis. While the popular theme Mesopotamia located in the lands to the east of Euphrates, according to the same author, was established in the early Xth c. (*Seibt, Mesopotamia*, 100-112). Even if this seems far-fetched at the present state of research, it provides the occasion to think again on the question of the reason for the discovery of seals bearing the name of this theme in the Bulgarian lands.

36. Μιτυλήνης

1356. Ἰωάννης Ν., κριτῆς καὶ μέγας κουράτωρ Μιτυλήνης (XIth century)

Private collection (Ivan Yotov from Yambol). Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa. Dim. 17-19 mm. Weak and illegible imprint, which renders its reading difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 32; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 49.1
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla : ..|| ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.ΘΚΕ.. | . ΩΚΡΙΤ. | ΚΑΙΜΕΓΑ. | Κ8ΡΑΤΩΡ. | ΜΙΤΥΛΗΝ. | Τ.ΚΛΗΔ.
[+] Θ(εοτό)κε [β(οή)θ(ει) Ἰ]ω(άννη) κριτ[ῆ] καὶ μεγά[λ(ω)] κουράτωρ[ι]
Μιτυλήν[η(ς)]

37. Μογλενῶν

1357. Ἰωσήφ Μανιάκης τουρμάρχης τῶν Μογλενῶν (XIth century)

RHM-Stara Zagora, no. 10C3-1. Find-spot: in the town. D. 26-29 mm; field 25 mm; thickness 4 mm. Good imprint but on the reverse slightly doubled because of the slipping of the blank.
Ed. Йорданов, Берое, № 6. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 50.1
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).
Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-NI-KO || Λ-AO-C
Rev. Inscription of six lines:
- ο - |+ΙΩCHΦ | Τ8ΡΜΑΡ | Χ'ΤΩΝΜΟ | ΓΛΕΝΩΝ | ΤΟΜΑΝΙ | ΑΚΗ
+ Ἰωσήφ τουρμάρχη(η) τῶν Μογλενῶν το Μανιάκη

38. Μοσυνόπολις

1358. Εὐστάθιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ τοποτηρητὴς Μοσυνόπολεως (XIth cent.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 122. Found in Pliska. D. 30-30 (27) 3 mm. W.13.67 g. Poorly preserved specimen with missing fields which makes the reading very difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 51.1
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands open before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.
Rev. Inscription of seven lines:
+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΕΝCΤΑΘ'Α' | ..Α..SΤΟ | ..ΤΗ... Τ' | ΜΟC... | Π Ο Λ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Εὐσταθ(ίω) (πρωτο)[σπ]α[θ(αρίω)] (καὶ)
το[πο]τη[ρη]τ(ῇ) Μοσ[υνό]πολ(εως).

39. Μώρρας καὶ Φιλιππουπόλεως

1359. Ροῦσος σπαθάριος καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Μώρρας καὶ Φιλιππουπόλεως (XIth century)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28698. Found in the region of Plovdiv. D. 26-29 (22) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Struck off-center. The edge of the specimen is broken and bent. All this makes the reading of the text difficult.
Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 37; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 52.1.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base. Along border of dots circular inscription: Κ VΛ'
Rev. Inscription of six lines:
|. 8CΟ | ..ΑΘΑ. | .ΕΚΠ.. | ΜΟΡΑC. | ΦΙΛΙΠ | ΠΟΛ'
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) [Ρ]ούσο [σπ]αθα[ρ(ίω)] (καὶ)] ἐκ
π[ρ(οσό)π(ου)] Μόρρας [(καὶ)] Φιλιπ(που)πόλ(εως)

40. Νέος Στρυμὼν

1360-1365. Στέφανος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τοῦ Νέος Στρυμόνος (971-976)

All six specimens are struck with the same die. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 283-288; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 53.1
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Panteleimon holding a martyr's cross before chest (r. hand) and an uncertain object, perhaps a medicine box (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns:
Θ-Π-Α-Ν||Τ-Ε-Λ-Ε' Along border of dots circular inscription: +ΑΓΠΑΝΤΕΛ...RTΔ'
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+CΤΕ | ΦΑΝΩΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'SCTP' | ΤΗΓΩΤ8N' | CTPVMΩ
+ Ἀγ(ιε) Παντελ[εήμ(ων)] βοήθει τῷ σῷ δ(ούλω) Στεφάνω
β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) στρ(α)τηγῷ τοῦ Ν(έος) Στρυμῶ(νος)

41. Νικοπόλων

1366 Ἰωάννης Πηγονίτης στρατηγὸς Νικοπόλων (second half of the XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15448. Former collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07.07). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 16-19 (19 ?) 4 mm. W. 7.64 g. Good imprint on a small irregularly-shaped blank. Parts of the image and text remained outside the blank.
Unpublished
Parallels : Lead seal from the collection of Zacos, III, no. 1728, see A.-K. Wassileiou-Seibt, Νέα στοιχεία για τη βυζαντινὴ Νικόπολη βάσει σφραγιστικῶν δεδομένων.-ΝΙΚΟΠΟΛΙΣ Β' Πρακτικά του Δευτέρου Διεθνoῦς Συμποσίου τη Νικόπολη (11-15 Σεπτεμβρίου 2002),vol.1 (Prebeza, 2007) 590-591.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Theologian blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΙΩ-Ο || ... 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Ἰω(άννης) ὁ [Θ(εο)λ(ό)γος].
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
... | . . ΓΟCΝ . | . ΟΠΟΛΟΝ | . ΠΗΓΟΝΙ | -ΤΗC-
[Ἰω(άννης) στρατη]γὸς Ν[ικ]οπόλον [ὁ] Πηγονίτης

It is possible that the letter of strategos John Pegonites of Nikopolis was received in Dristra when Theodore Pegonites was the katepano there. On him, see no. 1376 here.

42. Νίσος

1367-1367A. Νικηφόρος Δεκανὸς κουροπαλάτης καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς Νίσος (XI-XII c.)

1367. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 27705. Find-spot: Sozopol. D. 17-17.5 (?) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint because the blank was smaller than the diameter of the die or equal to it. Poorly preserved specimen. Corroded. All this renders the complete reading of the text difficult.
Ed. Йорданов, И. Новооткрит моливдовул на Никифор Декан - куропатат, дук и анаграф на Ниш от колекцията на НИМ-София. - ГНИМ, 9, 1994,75-79; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 55.1a.

1367A. Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov from Elhovo). Delivered to the National Historical Museum, Sofia, by the police. The principal group of seals from this collection originate from the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo. D. 18-20 mm. Weak imprint, but well preserved.
Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 45; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 55.1b.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same die is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection

(DO. 58. 106. 2577). It was originally published in 1991 (see Nesbitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, no. 32.1) even though the obtained information has been used many times (see, for instance, Gautier, *L'Obituaire*, p.257, n. 60).

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

a) +.ΕΡ'Θ' | ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡ' | Κ8ΡΟΠΑ | ΛΑΤΙ

b) . .ΕΡ'Θ' | . . . ΗΦΟΡ' | . 8ΡΟΠΑ | ΛΑΤΙ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) Δ8Κ . . | ΑΝΑΓΡΑ . . | ΝΗC8Τ. | ΔΕΚΑΝ

b) Δ8ΚΙ8 | ΑΝΑΓΡΑΦ | ΝΗC8Τ. | ΔΕ . . .

+ [Κ(ύρι)]ε β(οή)θ(ει) Νικηφόρ(ω) κουροπαλάτι δουκί (καί) ἀναγραφ(εῖ)

Νήσου τ[ῶ] Δεκαν[ῶ]

43. Ὁφίκιον

1368-1369. Ν., .. καὶ κόμης τοῦ θεοφυλάκτου β' Ὁφικίου (VIII-IXth century)

1368. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30448. Formerly in the collection of D. Dimitrov from Pernik. Found near the village of Kalugerovo, district of Haskovo. D. 16-26 mm. A fragment, about a quarter of the original seal.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 56.1a.

Obv. Portion of a cruciform invocative monogram. In the quarters only the letters ...||Δ8- . . are preserved.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | |.ΜΙΤΙ.. | .ΕΩΦV.. | Β'ΩΨΙΚ

+ Θ(εοτόκ)ε βοήθει [τῶ σῶ] δού[λω...(καὶ) κο]μίτι [τοῦ θ]εωφυ[λ(ά)κ(του)] β' Ὁφικ(ί)ου]

1369. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-24.6 mm. A fragment about a half of the original seal.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 56.1b.

Obv. Part of a cruciform invocative monogram. In the quarters only letters: ...-...|| Δ8 || ΛΩ - are preserved.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | |.ΟΜΙΤ | ΟΨΙΚΙ8

+Θ(εοτόκ)ε βοήθει [τῶ σῶ] δούλω [...(καὶ) κ]ομίτι [τοῦ β'] Ὁφικίου

1370. Λέων Περινός τοποτηρητῆς τοῦ Ὁφικίου (XIth century)

Private collection. Delivered to the National Historical Museum, Sofia, where we have documented it. Find-spot: uncertain (but surely on the territory of Bulgaria). D. 18-18 mm. Good imprint but struck a bit off-centre.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 56.2; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no.569.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || Κ-Ο- Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

Λ ΟΝ | ΤΟΠΟΤΙ. | Τ'Τ8ΟΨ. | Κ'ΤΟΠ. | ΡΕΝ'

Λέον(τι) τοποτι[ρ(ι)]τῆ τοῦ Ὁφ[ι]κ(ίου) το Π[ε]ρεν(ῶ)

1371. Νικήτας πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου, τοῦ βήλου καὶ ἀναγραφεὺς τοῦ Ὁφικίου (XIth century)

RHM-Silistra, no.1984. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 24-25 (?) 3 mm.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, II, № 11; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 56.3.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of six lines:

..... |ΤΩ.. | .ΝΙΚΗΤΑ | .СПΑΘ'ΕΠ.. | .ΓΚΛΙ. |

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | .ΠΙΤ8... | .Ρ'Τ8RΗ.. | .ΑΝΑΓ... | Τ8ΟΨΙ. | 8

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῶ [σῶ δ(ούλω)] [Νικήτα [(πρωτο)σ]παθ(αρίω) ἐπ[ι τ(οῦ) χρ(υσοτρι)]κλί[νου] [καὶ κριτ(ῆ) ἐ]πὶ τοῦ [ἵππ(ο)δ]ρ(όμου) τοῦ βή[λου (καὶ)] ἀναγ[ραφ(εῖ)] τοῦ Ὁφ[ι]κ(ί)ου

44. Ὀπτιμάτων

1372. Κωνσταντῖνος βεστάρχης καὶ κριτῆς τῶν Ὀπτιμάτων (third quarter of the XIth c.)

RHM-Kyustendil, no. 1240. Found in 1966 during archeological excavations in the fortress of Kyustendil north of the fortifications. Depth: 1.50 m. D. 31-32 mm. Originally a good imprint but now the surface is scratched with a sharp edge.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 57.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΔΗ-ΜΗ || Τ-ΡΙ-ΟC

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΚΩΝΡΕC | ΤΑΡΧΗΣ | ΚΡΙΤ'ΤΟΝ | ΟΠΤΙΜΑ | -ΤΩ-

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(ο)ήθ(ει) Κων(σταντίνω) βεστάρχη καὶ κριτ(ῆ) τὸν Ὀπτιμάτω(ν)

45. Παραδουνάβου

1373-1375. Δημήτριος Κατακαλὼν ἀνθύπατος πατρικίος καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβου (50s of the XIth century)

1373. It is preserved somewhere in Romania. Found in Silistra. D. 23-24 mm; field 20 mm. Originally good imprint but at present badly preserved specimen with a broken upper fragment.

Ed. Banescu, N. Sceau inedit de Katakalon katepano de Paradounavon.-EO, 35, 1936, 405-408; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 58.1a; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 302.

1374. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 13131. Found in Silistra on the bank of the Danube. D. 21.5-24 mm; field 20 mm; thickness 3 mm. Originally good imprint but struck a bit off-center. Perfectly preserved specimen.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, I, № 8; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 58.1b; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 302.

1375. Archaeological Museum, Pliska. Found during excavations of the "Palace Square, Northwest", square 137H, depth 0.40-0.60 m, on 10th October 2007. D. 25-26 (22 ?) 4 mm. W. 12.75 g. Well-centered and relatively complete imprint, but the blank was deformed and with defects at the casting. The first line on the reverse remained outside the blank.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Further three specimens are known which were struck in the same boulloterion: Banescu, N. Sceau de Demetrios Katakalon katepano de Paradounavon.-EO, 39, 1940, 157-160; Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS, 1, no. 67.1.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΔΗ-Μ' || T-PI-O' : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Δημ(ή)τρι(ος).

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΔΗΜΗΤΡ. | ΑΝΘΥΠ'Τ'ΠΡΙ | SKATEPAN8 | Τ8ΠΑΡΑΔ'Ρ' |

ΤΟΝΚΑΤ'Κ' | -Λ-

. | ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙ' | ΑΝΘΥΠ'Τ'ΠΡΙ | SKATEPAN8 | Τ8ΠΑΡΑΔ'Ρ' |

ΤΟΝΚΑΤ'Κ' | -Λ-

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(ο)ήθ(ει) Δημητρ[ί(ω)] ἀνθυπ(ά)τ(ω) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) κατεπάνου τοῦ Παραδ(ουνά)β(ου) τὸν Κατ(α)κ(α)λ(ών)

1376. Θεόδωρος Πηγονίτης πατρίκιος, ἀνθύπατος, βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβιτον (1050s-1060s)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Found near the village of Izvorovo, district of Silistra. D. 30-30 (27) 4 mm. W. 15.16 g. A complete and relatively well preserved imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no.58.2; Jordanov, F. Names, no.573.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟ | ΠΡΙ'ΑΝΘΥ | ΠΑΤ'ΡΕC | ΤΗ

Rev. Inscription of six lines, preceded by an ornament:

-✕- | ΚΑΙΚΑ | ΤΕΠΑΝΩ | ΤΩΝΠΑΡΑ | Δ8ΝΑΡΙΤ' | ΤΩΠΗΓΟ | -ΝΙΤ'-

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(ο)ήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λω) Θεοδώρο π(ατ)ρι(κίω) ἀνθυπάτ(ω) βέστη καὶ κατεπάνω τῶν Παραδουνάβιτ(ων) τῷ Πηγονίτ(η)

1377. Συμεὼν βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβου (1060s)

Archeological Museum, Preslav, no. 2382. Found in the palace and related to the activities of the Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 289; Jordanov, G. Names, no.58.3

Parallels: Two specimens struck with the same die were found in Istanbul (Mordtmann, Μολυβδοβουλλα, σ.144, no. 1) and Dinogetia (Barnea, Dinogetia, I, 332-335).

Obv. St. Nicholas standing, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).

Vertical inscription: O-A-Γ-I-O-C ||

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .VMEΩN |KA | 8T8 | ..ΠΑΔ8 | .AROV | - ο -

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(ο)ήθ(ει) [Σ]υμεὼν [βέστη (καὶ)] κα[τεπάνω]υ τοῦ

[Πα]ραδου[ν]άβου

1378-1379. Μιχαήλ βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω Παραδουνάβου (60s of the XI c.),

1378. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-33 (25) 3 mm. W. 8.40 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. It seems it was broken and then pasted but some portions were taken away.

Unpublished.

Parallel: Zacos, Seals, II, no. 602 struck in the same boulloterion.

1379. Archaeological Museum, Pliska. Found during excavations of the "Palace Square, Northwest", square 160, in the northeastern corner, at a depth of 0.20 m, under the stone layer, on 5th September 2006. D. 30.5-31.5 (27 ?) 3 mm. W. 10.83 g. incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The final letters of almost all lines did not print.

Unpublished.

Struck in a different boulloterion or a pair of dies.

Paralels: Zacos, Seals, II, no. 602

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and globus (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1378. MIXA | ΗΛΡ . . Τ | ΑΡ . ' . KA | ΤΕΠ . Ν . | | . . .

Zacos MIXA | ΗΛΡΕCΤ | ΑΡΧ'SKA | ΤΕΠΑΝΩ | ΠΑΡΑ . . | . ΑΡ'

1379. . MIXAH. | ΡΕCΤΑΡ. | SKΑΤ'Π. | ΡΑΔ8 . | -R'-

1378. Μιχαήλ β[εσ]τάρ(χη) [(καὶ)] κατεπ[ά]ν[ω] [Παραδουνάβ(ου)]

1379. Μιχαήλ[λ] βεστάρ[χ(η)] (καὶ) κατ(επάνω) Π[α]ραδου[ν(ά)β(ου)]

The existence of two boulloteria of this katepano of Paradunavon attests to his active correspondence or the continuance of the period during which he held this post.

50. Πατζινακίας

1380. Ἰωάννης Κεγένης μάγιστρος καὶ ἄρχων Πατζινακίας (1050-1051)

RHM-Silistra, no. 4. Found in Silistra by D. Cholakov. D. 28-30 mm; field 20 mm; thickness 2-5 mm. Incomplete imprint. The blank slipped in the boulloterion.

Ed. Jordanov, I. Sceau d'archonte de Patzinakia du XIe siecle. - Etudes Balkaniques, 2, 1992, 79-83; Йорданов, И. Печати на Йоан Кеген, магистър и архонт на Печенегия.-Нумизматика и сфрагистика, 1, 1998,96-101. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 59.1. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 307

Parallels: Seibt-Zarnitz, no. 3.2.9. Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist bearded, facing; wears a himation; blessing with r. hand, a long cross in l. hand. Inscription in two columns: Θ-ΙΩ||O-Π-ΔΡ-Μ : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Ἰω(άννης) ὁ Πρ(ό)δρ(ο)μ(ος)]

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ΚΕΡ'. | ΙΩΜΑΓ.. | ΤΡ'ΑΡΧ. | Τ'ΠΑΤ.. | ΚΙΑΤ.. | -...-
 +Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει)] 'Ιω(άννη) μαγ[ίς]τρ(ω) (καὶ) ἄρχ(ο)[ν]τ(ι)
 Πατ[ζ](ι)[ν]ακία(ς) τ[ῷ] Κ(ε)γέν(η)]

51. Παφλαγονίας

1381. Ρωμανός πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Παφλαγονίας (XIth century)

RHM-Dobrich, no. 1 1279. Bought in Silistra. D. 25-27 mm; field 22 mm; thickness 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. This concerns especially the reverse, on which whole fields are not imprinted. A fragment is cut or broken. Perhaps the blank was damaged. But all this did not impede the reading.
 Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, IV, № 19; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 60.1.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding medallion of the Child Christ before her. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || $\overline{\text{OV}}$.
 Along border of dots circular inscription: ΘΚΕ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:
 .ΡΩΜΑ | . Α'ΣΠΑΘ' | .ΣΤΡΑΤ' | .ΠΑΦΛΑ | ΓΟΝ..
 +Θ(εοτό)κε [βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] 'Ρωμα[ν(ῳ)] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) [(καὶ)]
 στρατ(η)[γ(ῳ)] Παφλαγον[ία(ς)]

52. Πελοποννήσου καὶ Ἑλλάδος

1382-1383. Λέων Νικερίτης πρωτοπρόεδρος καὶ ἀναγρφεὺς Πελοποννήσου καὶ Ἑλλάδος (last quarter of the XIth century)

1382. Private collection, offered for sale to the National Historical Museum, Sofia. Found in the region of Burgas. D. 22-24 mm. Incomplete imprint.
 Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 61.1; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 524.
 1383. RHM-Shumen, no. 15195. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 191. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D. 19-20.5 (19/21) mm. W. 6.24 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint, although some letters did not print.
 Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 313.
 The two specimen were struck in the same boulloterion
 Parallels : unpublished seal from Zacos, III, see Wassilou, Seibt, p. 133, n. 17.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:
 1382. | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ . | ΠΡΟΕΔΡ. | ΚΑΙΑΝ . | ΓΡΑΦ . .
 1383. +ΚΕΡ'. | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ . | ΠΡΟΕΔΡ. | ΚΑΙΑΝΑ | ΓΡΑΦΕΙ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:
 ΠΕΛΟ | ΠΟΝΝΗ . . | . ΕΛΛΑΔ . . | ΤΩΝΙΚΕ | ΡΙΤΗ
 ΠΕΛΟ | ΠΟΝΝΗC8 | ΣΕΛΑΔΟΣ | ΤΩΝΙΚ . | ΡΙΤΗ
 + Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή) [θ(ει)] Λέοντι [(πρωτο)]προέδρ[ω] καὶ ἀν[α]γραφεῖ
 Πελοποννήσου (καὶ) Ἑλλάδος τῷ Νικερίτῃ

53. Πλίσκοβα

1384. Φιλόθεος Φραγκοπούλος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ Χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς Πλίσκοβα (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14716. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Found by a treasure hunter with a metal detector on the territory of medieval Pliska. D. 26-27 (25) 4 mm. W. 20.40 g. Well-centred but incomplete imprint. The end letters are erased. The surface of the bulla is perfectly preserved.
 Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 62.1; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 731
 No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus cruciger (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: ..|| X-A-Λ.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:
 +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΦΗΛ'ΘΕΟ | Α'ΣΠ'ΘΑΡΙΕ | Π'Τ8ΧΓΚ | Λ'Ν"ΣCΤΡ | Τ'Γ' ΠΑΚΑ |
 Τ'Φ'Ρ'Κ'
 +Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Φηλ(ο)θέο (πρωτο)σπ(α)θαρί(ω) ἐπ(ι) τοῦ
 Χρ(υσοτρι)γκλ(ί)ν(ου) (καὶ) στρ(α)τ(η)γ(ῳ)] Πλ(ίσκ)οβ(α) τ(ῳ)
 Φ(α)ρ(α)γκ(ο)πούλ(ω)

The patronym is inscribed only with three letters and it is quite natural that there will be differences in its deciphering. The third letter is not very clear: K or Γ. Seibt sees N (BZ, 101, S.823) and proposes the names Phurniares or Phurnitiotes.

54. Πρεσθλάβας- Πρεσθλαβίτζας

1385-1392. 'Αέτιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Περσθλαβίτζας (first quarter of the XIst century)

A.
 1385. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 19220. D. 23-24 (22?) 2.5 mm. W. 5.95 g. Good imprint but with later damage.
 Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.1 Aa.
 1386. RHM-Dobrich. Found in the area of the medieval settlement near the village of Kladentsi, district of Dobrich (according to the latest information of our colleague G. Atanasov from Silistra, the seal was found in Silistra and legalized in Kladentsi). D. 20-22 mm; field 21.5 mm; thickness 3 mm. Weak imprint and poorly-preserved specimen.
 Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.1 Ab.
 The two specimens were struck with the same die.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield in l. hand (very similar to the next representation of St. Theodore and the arrangement of the letters of his name is the same). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο || Δ-Ω-ΡΟ-С

Rev. Inscription of six lines:
 -:- | +ΑΕΤΗ | Ο'Α'ΣΠΑΘ' | SCTAPTIΓ' | ΠΕΡΘΛΑ | RITZA | C
 + 'Αέτη(ος) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) σταρτιγ(ὸς) Περ(σ)θλαβίτζας

B.

1387. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17208. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 305; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.1 Ba.

1388. Private collection. Find-spot: the Sliven region. D. 23-23 mm; field 23 mm; thickness 3 mm. Well-centered imprint but too weak. Well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.1 Bb.

1389. RHM-Shumen, no. 14628. Formerly in a private collection (Emil Kossev from Shumen). We documented it on 4th March 1997. Probably found in Preslav. D. 25-25 (23) 2.5 mm. Well-centered imprint but too light. Well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.1 Bb.

1390. RHM-Shumen, no. 15095. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 91. Find-spot: Topolovgrad-Melnitsa. D. 29-30 (22) mm. W. 15.12 g. The boulloterion was struck on a defective blank. Floats are visible which remained between the sides of the mould for casting.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 315.
The four specimens were struck with the same die.
Parallels: Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS, 1, no. 69.1 [Fogg A. M. 2284].

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield in l. hand (very similar to the next representation of St. Theodore and the arrangement of the letters of his name is the same). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο || Δ-Ω-ΡΟ-С

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

-:- | +ΑΕΤΙΟ | Α'СПΑΘ'С | ΤΡΑΤ'ΠΕ | ΡСΘΛ'Р | -:-
+ 'Αέτιο(ς) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατ(ηγός) Περσθλ(α)β(ίτζας)

The publishers of the specimen from the Fogg A. M. collection have assumed that the toponym ΠΕΡСΘΛ'Р means Πρεσθλάβας. In his review (*BZ*, 98, S. 133), Seibt accepted this deciphering and maintained that Preslav and Preslavitsa are different cities. Then Aetios should have been strategos successively of Preslav and Preslavitsa.

The next two specimens are poorly imprinted and preserved which renders difficult their reading and identification with the two groups presented above.

C.

1391. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 26851. D. 12-28 (22) 4 mm, 15.20 g. The blank is rather thick.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.1 C.
No parallels known.

Obv. Scarcely visible bust of St. Theodore, as above. Vertical inscription:||Δ-Ω-ΡΟ-.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

-:- | Α.Τ. | Α'СПΑΘ' | | ΠΡΕС... | R....
'Α[έ]τ[η]ο(ς) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) [(καὶ) στρατηγ(ός)] Πρεσ[θλ]αβ[ί]τζα(ς)

D.

1392. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 26851. Deformed bulla, bent in two.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.1 D.
No parallels known.

Obv. Visible is half of the bust of St. Theodore, as above. Vertical inscription in two columns:
..... ||Δ-.- ΡΟ - .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+Α.Τ. | Α'СП.. | ССТРА... | .ΟΝ... | .ΛΑ..
+ 'Α[ε]τ[η]ο(ς) (πρωτο)σπ[αθ(άριος)] (καὶ) στρα[τηγ(ός)] τ]ὸν
[Πρε(σ)θ]λα[β(ί)τ(ζας)]

The attribution of these two seals to the governors of Preslavitsa is conditional and this especially concerns the last specimen. Nevertheless they are too close to the first two groups.

1393-1396. 'Ανδρόνικος Δούκας πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς μεγάλης Πραισθλάβας or Πραισθλάβιτζας (1030s-1040s)

1393. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22909. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-23 (22) 3 mm. W. 9.90 g. Incomplete and weak imprint. A small portion of the blank is broken.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 303; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.2a; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 192.

1394. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 88. Found in Pliska during archaeological excavations in 1930 under the supervision of K. Myatev. D. 25-25 mm; field 22 mm; thickness 2.8 mm. Incomplete imprint. The initial letters of almost all lines of the text on the reverse are out of the blank. Well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 1; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.2b; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 193.

1395. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 28079. Found in the warehouse of the archaeological excavations in the southwestern corner of the Inner City of Preslav in May 1991. A fragment (about a quarter of an originally good imprint). D. 14-20 (of the seal itself over 20 mm).
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.2c; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 194.

1396. RHM-Shumen, no. 14760. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 22-25 (22) 3 mm. W. 7.64 g. Incomplete imprint. The initial letters of almost all lines of the text on the reverse are out of the blank. Well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.2d; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 195.
All four specimens were struck with the same die.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-. || Δ - ... : 'Ο ἄ(γιος) Θε[ό]δ[ωρ(ος)].

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

a) | .ΝΔΡΟΝ | . СПΑΘ'С | СТРАТИΓ' | . . СМΠΡΕ. | . . ΛΑΡ'Ω | . 8Κ'
b) | .ΝΔΡΟΝ | Α'СПΑΘ'С | СТРАТИΓ' | Т. СМΠΡΕ | СΘΛΑΡ' | . Δ8Κ'
c) | | | ТИΓ' | ΠΡ | Р'Ω |
d) | .ΝΔΡΟ. | Α'СПΑΘ'. | СТРАТ. . | ТНСМΠ. . | . ΘΛΑΡ' | . Δ8.
a-d: ['Α]νδρόν(ικος) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατιγ(ός) τῆς μ(ε)γ(άλ)ης
Πρεσθλάβ(ας) ὦ Δούκ(ας)

1397- 1403A. 'Ιωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Περσκλάβας (Xth-XIth centuries)

1397-1403. Find-spot: Preslav.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 291-297; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.3 a-g.

1403A. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 11137.D. 22-24 mm. Found in 1997 on the river bank of the Danube near Silistra.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, II, № 6; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63. 3h.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps with fleurons arising from base. Along border of dots, circular inscription: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΙΩΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'ΚΕ | CΤΡΑΤΗ | ΓΟΠΕΡC | ΚΛΑΡ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Ἰω(άννη) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) κὲ
στρατηγ(ῶ) Περσκλάβ(α)ς)

All eight specimens were struck with the same die. One is overstruck (no. 1403). Diameter of the newly struck field is 15 mm. Its description is the following:

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps with fleurons arising from base. Along border of dots, circular inscription: +ΚΕΡΟΘ'ΤΩC'Δ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

οοο | +RACH | Λ'ΔΟΜΕC | T..T8Δ |Δ

+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) τῷ σ(ῷ) δούλ(ω) Βασηλ(είω) δομεστ[ίκ(ω)] τοῦ Δ.....δ

In his review (BZ, 98, S. 133), Seibt assumes that it refers to δομέστικος τοῦ δουκὸς Βουλγαρίας. Unfortunately, it is just an assumption which is unsubstantiated by facts. Besides, doudom Bulgaria was not yet in existence in the late Xth c. and possibly in the early XIth c.

1404-1405. Ἰωάννης Μαλέας πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Περσθλάβας or Περσθλαβίτζας (first half of the XIth century)

1404. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21552. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D.24-25 (22) 3 mm. W. 8.80 g. Well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 308; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.4; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 411.

1405. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 28625. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D.25-26 (22) 3 mm. Well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 308a; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.4b; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 410.

The two specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-NI-KO || ΛΑ-OC : Ὁ ἄ(γιος) Νικόλαος

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΙΩΑ'CΠΑΘ'S | CΤΡΑΤΙΓ' | ΠΕΡCΘΛ'Ρ' | T.ΜΑΛΕ | -A-

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Ἰω(άννη) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ)
στρατηγ(ῶ) Περσθλ(ά)β(α)ς τ[ῷ] Μαλέα

1406. Ἰωάννης Μαλέσης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσθλαβίτζας (1030s-1040s)

RHM-Silistra, no. 87. Found on the bank of the Danube near Silistra by Al. Boev. D. 20-30 mm; field 24 mm; thickness 2.5 mm. Half of originally excellent imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, IV, № 5; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.5; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 412.

No parallels known.

Obv. Busts of two military saints facing. St. Theodore (on l.) holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription above head: ΘΕΟΔΟΡ. Visible at r. is a portion of the nimbus, short curly hair and spear of another military saint, probably St. George, because his name is inscribed: Θ | Γ | Ε | : Ὁ ἄ(γιος) Γε[ώργιος]

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

...ΠΑ |CΤΡΑ |ΕCΘΛΑ | ...ZACO | .. ΕCΙ

[+ Ἰω(άννης)] πα[τρίκ(ιος) (καὶ)] στρα[τ(η)γ(ὸς) Πρ]εσθλα[βίτ]ζας ὁ
[Μα]λέσι(ς)

1407-1413. Κωνσταντῖνος Καραντηνός πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς Περδσλάβας (first quarter of the XIth century)

1407. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18240. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-30 (23) 4 mm. W. 18.60 g. The dies were slightly loose in the boulloterion; as a result the obverse is slightly blotted.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 298; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.6a; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 273.

1408. Archaeological Museum Veliki Preslav, no. 16698. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-26 (23) 4 mm. W. 9.30 g. The dies were slightly loose in the boulloterion; as a result the letters of the obverse were doubled.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 299; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.6b; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 274.

1409. Archaeological Museum Veliki Preslav, no. 24600. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23.5-25 (23) 3 mm. W. 11.20 g. Unsuccessful imprint on a low-quality blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 300; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.6c; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 275.

1410. Private collection (N. Georgiev from Shumen). Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 22.5-25 (23) 3 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 301; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.6d; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 276.

1411. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18553. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 22.5-25 (?) 3 mm. Specimen broken in two with fragments missing.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 302; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.6e; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 277.

1412. Historical Museum, Karnobat. Found by Em. Kossev with a metal detector in the autumn of 1989. An attempt at its legalization was made in Markele, near Karnobat. D. 23.5-23.5 (23) 3.5 mm. Good imprint and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.6 f; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 278.

1413. RHM-Shumen, no. 14828. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-25 (23) 3 mm. W. 10.94 g. Good imprint but damaged by a strike when found.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.6g.

All seven specimens were struck with the same die.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ: Μ(ήτη)ρ
Θ(εο)ῦ. Circular inscription along a border of dots: +ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΚΩΝ | Α'ΣΠΑΘ'Ε | ΟΙΤ8Χ'SC | ΤΡΑΤΙΓΟ | ΠΕΡΔΣΚΛ' | ΤΩΚΑΡ'Δ'
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δοῦλ(ω) Κων(σταντίνω) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ
τοῦ χρ(υσοτρικλίνου) (καὶ) στρατηγο Περδσ(λά)βα(ς) τῷ Καρ(αν)δ(ηνῷ)

In his two reviews (BZ, 98, S. 133 and now BZ, 101, S. 820), Seibt argues that the family name of this Preslav strategos is Kardames and not Karandenos/Karantenos. He gives no reason for that. The replacement of T with Δ is not an exception but a common phenomenon in Byzantine sigillography. The image of the Virgin with hands placed before her chest on the obverse incorporates the seal to those of the other representatives of Karantenos family (see **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, p. 185). And finally, a similar person is attested in the sources in contrast to the hypothetical Kardames. I am left with the impression that Seibt prefers the exceptions rather than the commonplace but more plausible solutions.

1414-1419. Λέων Πηγονίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσθλαβίτζας (mid-XIth century)

1414. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 16684. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-24 (20?) 3 mm. W. 7.95 g. Incomplete imprint
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 309; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.7a; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 580.

1415. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24636. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 12-19 (20?) 2 mm. Good imprint. Half preserved.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 310; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.7b; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 581.

1416. Preserved in Romania [MIRS 48/15]. Prior to that it was in the former collection of Pericle Papahadj. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 25-27 mm; field 20 mm; thickness 3 mm. Incomplete imprint because of off-center striking and slipping of the blank in the boulloterion. Well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Banescu-Papahagi, Silistrie, no. 2; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 63.7c; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 582.

1417. RHM-Shumen, no. 14713. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-26 mm. W. 8.90 g. Well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.7d; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 583

1418. Archaeological Museum, Pliska. Found in the southern periphery of the Inner City, square 10Γ northeastern corner, depth 1.60-1.70 m D. 21-21 (20) 2.5 mm. Well-preserved bulla. D. 21-21 (20) 2.5 mm. Well-preserved bulla.
Unpublished.

1419. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 13132. Found in Silistra. D. 17.9-20.5 mm; field 19 ? mm; thickness 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Blank too small for die, and the imprint itself is off-centered.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.7e; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 584.

The five specimens were struck with the same die. The reverse of the sixth (no. 1419) specimen is different, and we are not sure about the obverse, even though there are some different details. These differences could be due to some later damages or repairs of the boulloterion.

Parallels: Further two specimens struck with the same die as our 1414-1418 are preserved in the collections of the Hermitage (M-12178, see **Шандровская**, Болгария, 461-462, рис. 8) and Fogg A. M., no. 860 (see **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, no. 78.4),

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

—✠—|+ΚΕΡ'Θ'| ΤΩCΩΔ'| Λ'ΛΕΟΝΤ|Α'СΠΑΘ'|—✠—

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

—✠—SCTPA|Τ'ΠΡΕCΘ'|RIT'ΤΩΠΗ|ΓΟΝΙΤ'|—✠—
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ού)λ(ω) Λέοντ(ι) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ)
στρατ(ηγῷ) Πρεσθ(λα)βίτζ(ας) τῷ Πηγονίτ(η)

1420. Μάλις πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσκλαβίτζας (XIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 21529. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23.5 (21) 2 mm. W. 7.80 g. No very successful but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 312; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.8.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on two steps with fleurons arising from base. Along border of dots, circular inscription: . . ΕΡΟΗΘΙΤΩCΩΔ..

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+OMA|ΛICA'СПА|Θ'SCTPAT'|Π.ΕCΚ..|ITZ..
+ Ὁ Μάλις (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατ(ηγὸς) Π[ρ]εσκ[λαβ]ίτζ[ας]
or
+ Ὁμάλις (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) (καὶ) στρατ(ηγὸς) Π[ρ]εσκ[λαβ]ίτζ[ας]

1421-1422. Μελίας πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Πρεσθλαβίτζας (XIth century)

1421. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17046. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-26 (20) 4 mm. W. 16.00 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 311; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 63.9.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns. -Ε-Ο||Δ-.-ΡΟ-.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

-✠-|+ΜΕΛΙ|Α'СПАΘ'.|.ΤΡΑΤΙΓ|.ΡΕCΘΛ'|R'
+ Μελί[α(ς)] (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) [(καὶ) σ]τρατιγ(ὸς) [Π]ρεσθλ(ά)β(ας) or
[Π]ρεσθλ(ά)β(ίτζας)

1422. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. № 298. Found on the surface during excavations of the Palace Church site, square 162/ 123-133, on 8th August 2007. D. 26.5-26.5 (22) 4 mm. Well-centered and complete imprint but struck over another bulla.

Visible from the overstrike:

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas in bishop's dress. He blesses with his r. hand and holds the book of Gospel (l. hand) At r., vertical inscription: O-A-ΓΙ-O||. The name should be inscribed on l., but the preserved letters there are from the understrike. At r. below, remains of a circular inscription with the invocation: + ΚΕΡΟΗ

Rev. The first two lines are not preserved:

.|| . . . ZAPX|.CTPARW|TPHXAP'
. τα]ζ(ι)άρχ(ης) [ό] Στραβωτρηχάρ(ης)

The name is preserved from the understrike which allows for identification with a better preserved specimen presented below but also provides greater certitude in the description still now.

Visible on the obverse is only part of the lock of St. Theodore and his nimbus. The letter Δ recording St. Theodore's name is visible to the left of St. Nicholas. Only the first two lines of the reverse can be identified.

-:- |+ΜΕΛΙ | ΑΑ' CΠ . . . |
+ Μελία(ς)] (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος)

There is a strange repetition of the letters CΠ . . CΠ. We cannot say with certitude whether these are letters from the understrike or overstrike.

Thus, we deal with the seal of Melias, protospatharios and strategos of Preslav, which was overstruck by unknown taxiarches from the Stravotricharis family (on him, see no. 1078 here).

The name Μελί[α(ς)] is probably of Armenian origin. Byzantine military commanders by the same name are attested in narrative sources for the years 896 and 973 (Charanis, 213, 227). The Preslav seal is generally dated to 1030s-1040s and obviously represents a namesake of the two mentioned. Nothing else can be said about it.

It is possible that the taxiarchion of Stravotriharis was located near the Lower Danube and that he wrote to the Preslav strategos performing his official work. Or we will not be surprised if they both were Armenian by origin and relatives as well and they exchanged correspondence with each other. It is hard to determine the purpose of the overstriking: whether it was accidental or on purpose. The following logical sequence can be assumed. The strategos of Preslav Melias wrote to the taxiarches Stravotriharis. The latter had no blank at his disposal and used that of his correspondent, or he wanted to emphasize that he did receive Melias's letter and that this was his reply.

55. Παιδεστός

1423. Δαυίδ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ βασιλικὸς (?) Παιδεστός (Xth century)

Archeological Museum, Preslav, no. 27922. Found during archeological excavations of the Palace Basilica in the inner city of Preslav, sq. 156, depth 0.60 m, on 29th July 1989. D. 21-26 mm; field 18 mm; thickness 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. The dies are imprinted only above the swelling of the cord channel. •
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 65.1.

Parallels: Zacos, Seals, II, no. 134 bis. Struck with the same boulloterion as our specimen and has the same defect of imprinting.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base. Along border of dots, circular inscription:.....Θ.ΙΤΩ.....[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή]ϑ[ε]ι τῷ [σῶ] δούλῳ]

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. . . |.ΔΑΔ | .Α'CΠΑΘ | ..R'T8P. | ΔΕCΤ. | - . -
[+Δα(υὶ)δ [β']](πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) [(καὶ)] β(ασιλικῶ) τοῦ 'Ρ[ε]δεστ[οῦ]

56. Ρυνδάκος

1424-1426. Θεοφάνηςκαὶ διοικιτῆς τοῦ 'Ρυνδάκου καὶ τῶν 'Ανατολικῶν (XIth c.)

1424. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 13135. Bought in Silistra. Found by Al. Boev on the riverbank of the Danube. D. 20-20 mm. The specimen is heavily corroded.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 66.1a.

1425. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain but probably the same as above. D. 18-20 mm. Incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 66.1b.

1426. Of unknown provenance. An illustration of it is kept in the photoarchive of the Institute and Archaeological Museum, Sofia. Incomplete imprint, mostly on the reverse, where whole segments are missing.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 66.1c.
The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
Unpublished.
Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Warsaw National Museum Collection (see Szemioth-Wasilewski, Varsovie, no. 45).

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands raised before her. Along border of dots circular inscription: ΘΕΟΦΑΝ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) | ΣΔ . . | ΚΙΤ . . . V . | ΤΑΚ . . Ο . | Α
b) | ΣΔΙ8 | ΚΙΤ'Τ8ΡVΝ | . ΑΚΣΤΟΝ | . . ΤΟΛ
c) | | ΚΙΤ'Τ | ΤΑΚΣΤΟ . | ΑΝΤ . .
[+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοφάνηη] (καὶ) διοικιτ(ῆ) τοῦ 'Ρυντάκ(ου) (καὶ)
τὸν 'Αν(α)τολ(ικῶν)

57. Σάμος

1427-1428. Θεόφυλος Ἀγιοζαχαρίτης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς Σάμος (1030s-1040s)

1427. Archeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17550. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 22-27 (24) 4.5 mm, 22 25 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 313; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 67.1; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 7.

1428. Archeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17552. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-26 (24) 4 mm, 19.50 g. Weak imprint and poorly preserved specimen.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 314; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 67.1b; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 8.
The two specimens were struck with the same die.
Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same die is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 55. 1. 3050) (see Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS, 2, no. 44.13).

Obv. Bust of St. Zacharias bearded, wearing a luxurious chlamys and a curious oriental headpiece and holding (l. hand) a round decorated box, with a crosslet on top of its cover. Vertical inscription: O-A-ΓΙ-O || Z-AX-AP'-A : 'Ο ἅγιος Ζαχαρ(ί)ας(ς).

Rev. Inscription of five lines, preceded and followed by an ornament:

-✠- | ΘΕΟΦVΛ'ΠΑΤΡΙΚΙ'Σ | CΤΡΑΤΙΓ'CA | . 8ΟΑΓΙΟ | ΖΑΧΑΡ' | -✠-
+Θεόφυλ(ος) πατρίκι(ος) (καὶ) στρατηγ(ός) Σά[μ]ου ὁ Ἀγιοζαχαρ(ί)της

1429-1430. Χριστόδουλος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τῆς Σάμος (Xth-XIth cen.)

1429. Archeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22181. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 15-27 (23 ?) 2 mm. Poorly preserved specimen. Half creased.

Ed. **Йорданов, Преслав**, № 320; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 67.2a

1430. RHM-Silistra, no. 30. Find-spot: somewhere in the city. D. 14-26 mm; field (?); thickness 3 mm. Half of originally good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 67.2b

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Elaborate cross, with a linear outline, standing on a straight bar; at its four ends, one big and two small pellets. On either side fleurons arise from the base. Along the border of dots: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) ΧΩΔ . . | Ρ'Α'CΠ . . | .CTPA . . | .ΩΤ . . . | Μ . .

b) . . Δ8Λ' | . . CΠΑΘ' | . . TPATN | . . TICA | . . .

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Χ(ριστ)ωδούλ(ῳ) β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) [(καὶ)] στρατη[γ]ῷ τῷ(ς) Σάμ[ος]

58. Σελευκείας

1431. Ἰωάννης ἀσηκρητὶς καὶ κρητὴς Σελευκείας (Xth-XIth centuries)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14647. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Uncertain. D. 22.5-25 (22) 4 mm. W. 13.30 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 68.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael half turned l., seems to hold Christ; scepter over r. shoulder and an uncertain inscription: M-I-X-A or N-I-K-A. on his l. side, remains of circular (?) inscription.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΙΩ | .CHKPI | .ICSKPH | .HCΕΛΕΝ | ΚΕΙΑC

+Ἰω(άννη) [ἀ]σηκρι[τ]ις (καὶ) κρη[τ]ῇ Σελευκείας

59. Στρυμόνος καὶ Βολεροῦ

1432. Συμεὼν β' πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τῶν οἰκειακῶν κρητὴς Στρυμόνος καὶ Βολεροῦ (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15113. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 109. Find-spot: Topolovgrad-Melnitsa. D. 22-25 (20) 4 mm. W. 11.12 g. Well-centered imprint in a poor state of preservation. The surface is covered with oxides which renders difficult the identification of the saint and the reading. The

proposed reading is only one variant, besides with some reserves.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 321.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of indeterminate saint facing, blessing with r. hand. At either side along a border of dots, the following letters are visible: +ΑΓΙΩ || ΤΩCΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ooo | +CVMΕ | ΩNR'Α'CΠA | .ΕΠΙΤ'ΟΙΚ | . . . ICTP | . . . ΛΕΡ'

+ Ἀγίῳ τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Συμεὼν β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) ἐπὶ τ(ῶν) οἰκ(ειακῶν) [κρητ]ῇ Στρ[υμόνος Βο]λερ(οῦ)

60. Σωτηρουπόλεως καὶ Ἀνακουπίας

1433. Νικόλαος πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτριγκλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς Σωτηρουπόλεως καὶ Ἀνακουπίας (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14896. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 36-37 (27-28) 3.5 mm. W. 24.94 g. Well-centered but weak imprint. Some letters did not print or were effaced.

The surface is damaged due to inappropriate cleaning.

Ed. **W. Seibt – I. Jordanov**, Στρατηγὸς Σοτηροπόλεως καὶ Ἀνακκουπία. Ein mittel-byzantinisches Kommando in Abchazien (11 Jharhundert).-SBS. 9, 2006, 231-241.

No known parallels.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΝΙΚΟΛΑ | ΩΑ'CΠΑΘ' | ΕΠΙΤ8ΧΡ | ΓΚΛ'Ν'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | SCTPA | ΤΗΓ'CP8 | ΠΟΛ'SAN' | Κ8ΠΙ | - ο -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Νικολάῳ (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίῳ) ἐπὶ τοῦ χρ(υσοτρι)γκλ(ί)ν(ου) (καὶ) στρατηγ(ῷ) Σ(ωτη)ρουπόλ(εως) καὶ Ἀν(α)κουπί(ας)

61. Στρουμίτζας

1434. Φαραζμάνης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Στρουμίτζας (mid-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 156 (former collection V. Haralanov from Shumen). Find-spot: Silistra, Preslav or generally northeastern Bulgaria. D. 29-29 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint. Some letters either did not print or were subsequently erased.

Ed. **Jordanov, F. Names**, no. 730A.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ο - | ΦΑΡΑΖ | .ΑΝΑ'CΠA | ΘΑΡ'SCTP | .ΙΓ'CTP | ΜΙΤAC | - ο -

Φαραζ[μ]άν(ης) (πρωτο)σπαθάρ(ιος) (καὶ) στρ(α)[τ]ιγ(ὸς) Στρ[ου]μίτζας

62. Στρυμῶνος

1435. Λύκαστος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Στρυμῶνος(Xth century)

Private collection. Findspot: uncertain. D. 131-26 mm. Half of an excellent seal.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 73.1

Parallels: **Laurent**, Sceaux inedits, 350-351, no. 12. Struck with the same boulloterion as our specimen.

Obv. Portion of the patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base. Along border of dots circular inscription:.....CΩΔΟΝΑ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ Λ | CΤΩ... | ΠΑΘ' S... | ΑΤΗΓ' C.. | VMΩN

[+K(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Λ[υκάστῳ] β'(πρωτο)σήπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) σ[τρ]ατηγ(ῶ) Σ[τρ]υμῶν(ος)

63. Σωξοπόλεως

1436. Κωνσταντῖνος β' σπαθάριος καὶ κλεισουριάρχης Σωξοπόλεως (second quarter of the IXth century)

Private collection (Dr. D. Theodoridis from Munich). It probably originates from the kommerkia of Develtos. D. 27-27 (26) mm. A complete and brilliantly preserved imprint. Still, the ends of some letters were cut or remained outside the blank.

Ed. **Wassiliou-A.-K.**, Neue Siegel, Abb.2; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 74.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5). In the quarters: TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+KΩNC | TANT'B'CI' | ΘΑ'Κ'ΚΛΙCΩN | ΡΙΑ'COZO | ΠΩΛΕ'

Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Κωνταντ(ίνω) β'σπ(α)θα(ρίω) κ(αὶ) κλ(ε)ισουριά(ρχη) Σοξοπώλε(ως)

64. Φιλιππουπόλεως

1437. Κωνσταντῖνος Πέτρος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Φιλιππουπόλεως (Xth-XIth c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 2395. Found during archaeological excavations in the Palace of Preslav in 1927 but attributed to the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-25 (19) 3 mm. W. 8.00 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 77.1; **Jordanov, F. Names**, no. 572.

Parallels: **Schlumberger, Sig.**, p. 115, no. 1. Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from the base. Along border of dots, the remains of a circular inscription:.... Ω Δ8Λ...CTA'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

R'Α'CΠΑ | .SCTPA | .ΙΓ'ΦΗΛ. | ΠΟΠ'Ω.. | ΤΡΟC

[+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) [Κων]στα(ντίνω) β'(πρωτο)σπα[θ(άριος)] (καὶ) στρα[τ]ιγ(ός) Τηλ[η]ποπ(όλεως) ὦ [Πέ]τρος

1438. Δημήτριος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Φιλιππουπόλεως (Xth-XIth c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-21 (19) 2 mm. The bulla has an irregular shape and is slightly off-centred. The initial letters of almost all lines on the reverse remained outside the blank or were effaced. The rest are blotted and indistinct but the reading is generally unproblematic with the exception perhaps of the first letter of the toponym.

Ed. **Стоименов, Д.** Моливдовул на неизвестен стратег на Филипопол.- *История и книгите като приятелиство. Сборник в памет на Митко Лачев*, София, 2007, 54-55.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

. . . || K-O-Λ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. ΔΗΜΤ | .Γ'Α'CΠΑ . | . CΤΡΑΤ . | ΦΗΛΗΠΟ | ΛΕΟ

[+]Δημ(ή)τ[ρ]ι(ος) (πρωτο)σπα[θ](άριος) [(καὶ)] στρατ[ιγ](ός) Φηληπο[πο]λεος(ς)

A strategos of Philipopolis by this name is unknown in the sources. The seal fills the list of the startegoi of the city by one name.

1439-1440. Ἀργυρός Καρατζᾶς πρωτοκουροπαλάτης καὶ δοῦξ Φιλιππουπόλεως (1092-1095)

1439. RHM-Pazardzhik, no. 505. There is no information on its exact findspot. In 1959 Prof. T. Gerassimov made a plaster cast, on which he wrote that the find-spot was Pazardzhik. Currently the seal is preserved in the exposition of the National Historical Museum, Sofia. D. 24-25 mm; field 23 mm; thickness 3 mm. Complete imprint but in a poor state of preservation. Broken fragment. The surface is covered with lead oxide.

Ed. **Jordanov, Plovdiv**, no. 6; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 77.2a; **Jordanov, F. Names**, no. 285.

1440. RHM-Stara Zagora, no. 4839. Found on the land of the village of Dobri Dol, district of Plovdiv. D. 18-20 mm; field 23 ? mm; thickness 3 mm. Blank too small for die. Some of the letters are poorly preserved.

Ed. **Jordanov, Plovdiv**, no. 7; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 77.2b; **Jordanov, F. Names**, no. 286.

Parallels: **Laurent, V.** Argyros Karatzas protocuropalat si duc de Philipopolis, *Revista istorica*, 29, 1934, 203-210.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

a) + | ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | ΑΡΓΙΡΟΝ | . 8ΡΟΠΑ | ΛΑΤ'

b) | ΚΕΡΟΗ . | ΤΩCΩΔ8 . | ΑΡΓΙΡΟ . | Κ8ΡΟΠ . | . . .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) Δ8ΚΑ. | ΙΛΠ8ΟΠ | ΛΕΟCΤΟΝ | ΚΑΡΑ .Α | -N-

b) | . ΛΠ8ΟΠ | . ΕΟCΤΟΝ | . ΑΡΑΤΑ | -N-

+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Ἀργιρόν (πρωτο)κουροπαλάτ(ην) (καὶ) δούκα [Φ]ιλιππουπόλεος τὸν Καρατζάν

65. Χερσώνος

1441. Λέων (?) β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς Χερσώνος (Xth-XIth c.)

Archeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22175. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-25 (17?) 2.5 mm. Poorly preserved specimen. A crack runs through the whole imprint which violates the text and the image.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 322; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 78.1

No parallels known.

Obv. Vague representation of bust of the Virgin or a saint in high relief.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.Ε.Ν | Ρ'Α' ΠΑ | .ΣΤΡΑ | .Ι.ΧΕ | ..ΩΝ

[Λ]έ[ω]ν β'(πρωτο)[σ]πα[θ]άρ[ι]ος (καὶ) στρα[τ]ι[γ]ός] Χε[ρ]σώνος

1442. Ἰωάννης (?) κουμμερκιάριος Χερσώνος (IXth-Xth centuries)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Found in the area of Silistra-Kalarash. D. 26-27 mm; field (?); thickness 2.5-3 mm. Probably originally good imprint but now it is in a poor state of preservation with a broken fragment and damaged surface.

Ed. **Barnea**, *Noi sigilii*, no. 6; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 78.2.

Parallels: As far as it could be compared with the photos which are not of high quality and are unnaturally large, a specimen similar to ours was published by **Соколова**, *Херсон*, № 17.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-.. || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

...Ν | ..Κ8ΜΕΡ | ..ΑΡΙΩΧΕΡ | CΩΝΟC

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ [σῶ] δούλῳ [Ἰωάν]ν[η] κουμμερ[κ]ι[α]ρίῳ Χερσώνος

1442A. Σέργιος κανδίδατος καὶ κουμμερκιάριος Χερσονως (IX c.)

Private collection V. Stankov from Batak, no. 245. Find-spot: the village of Dabene, municipality of Karlovo. D. 22-23 mm W. g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation which renders the reading uncertain.

Unpublished.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (pl. I.5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-C . ||. . . .

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..ΡΓΙΩ | .ΑΝΔ'SK8 | ...Κ'X... | .ΝΟ.

Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σ[ῶ] δούλῳ Σε[ρ]γίῳ [κ]ανδ[ι]δάτῳ (καὶ) κου[μ]μερ[κ]ι[α]ρίῳ

Χ[ε]ρσώνως

Provided the deciphering is correct, it raises the question of the discovery of the seal in the region of the village of Dabene. It was not in Byzantine territory. The seal most probably originated from a different settlement in southern Bulgaria which in the IXth c. was in Byzantine territory. And yet the question why the kommerkiarios of Chersones wrote to an unknown addressee in this part of the Empire will rest. It was probably to his relative or acquaintance and not on business.

66. Χρυσόπολεως

1443. Ἰωάννης χαρτουλάριος, γεννηματικὸς Χρυσόπολεως καὶ τῶν Πόρον (Xth c.)

RHM-Silistra, no.19. Found in the city. D. 18-18 (16) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint but a well-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 80.1.

Parallels: **Gray Birch**, *Catalogue*, no. 17589; **Панченко**, *Каталог*, № 368; **Sokolova**, *Cherson*, 109-111, pl. X. When I visited Chersones in 1997, I documented five more specimens found there. All they are struck with the same boulloterion.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ∴ - | ΙΩΧΑΡ | Τ8ΛΑΡ' | ΣΓΕΝΙ | ΜΑΤ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ∴ - | .CΟΠΟ | .ΕΟCΣ | ΤΟΝΠΟ | ΡΟΝ |

+ Ἰω(άννης) χαρτουλάρ(ιος) (καὶ) γενιματ(ᾶς) [Χρ(υ)]σοπό[λ]εος (καὶ) τὸν Πόρον

To supplement my previous publication, I will add J.-Cl. Chyenet's reasoning (see **Cheyne**, *La societe*, 231-234). The existence of already seven specimens struck in the same boulloterion provides us with some certitude in the reading of the toponyms but along with that it causes two difficulties: the identification of the position and the toponyms.

The position whose transcription is not completely certain since it is abbreviated remains a mystery and is not attested anywhere else. According to Cheynet, it is connected with the collecting and distributing of grain in kind as part of the roga.

The uncertainty in the identification of the toponyms is due to the fact that several Chrisopolises are known. One of them is that on the Strymon but it seems rather strange why such a specific functionary should have resided there despite the favourable location of the city on a waterway through which agricultural products from the valley could be concentrated in it. The same name bears the well-known city on the Bosphorus opposite Constantinople where the route from Asia Minor ended. In the XIIth c. it took the name Scutari, the present-day Yuksyudar.

We can also be uncertain regarding the location of Poroi. There is at least one place by this name which is a seat of a bishopric dependent on the metropolitan of Trayanopolis who is known by his seal as a titular of this bishopric. Poroi was a harbour situated in the middle of a seaside plain which spread towards Xantia and Musinopolis and which was suitable for delivery of grain. Poroi can be regarded in the sense of the Straits but no such use has been attested so far. It is still more unlikely that a functionary located in Chrisopolis should have been in charge of the Dardanelles. Nevertheless, such reading cannot be discounted and in this case under the Straits we should only understand the Bosphorus.

How can we explain the simultaneous presence of a seal of this John in Bulgaria and Chersones? Two mutually exclusive hypotheses can be presented. In the first case, we can imagine that John in search of food supplies went as far as the Bulgarian lands and this would corroborate the idea of localization by the rivers in the Balkan peninsula. And on the contrary, the presence of such a seal in Chersones, which was basically a transit harbour, is surprising since at that juncture the southern parts of Russia were occupied by the Pechenegs and there was no production of grain. The possibilities of food supplies from there were connected

with the Cherchen peninsula. We can imagine that John bought food from Bulgaria with the purpose to sell it in Chersones. It can also be assumed, contrary to that, that John provided both the Bulgarians and the citizens of Chersones with food supplies. In any case, it will be rather unsafe to rely solely on the information from a single seal.

B. Without toponyms

On the face of it, the only difference between the present seals and those from the volume *Seals with Geographical Names* is the fact that they bear no toponyms. We can even say that some of them belonged to one and the same person before or after he was appointed in the respective military and administrative unit. I have classified them into several groups according to their positions: doukes and katepanos, strategoi, tourmarchai, klissourarkai, etc. The owners of the seals in each group have been listed according to the alphabetical order of their homonyms.

It strikes one that with this compact group of seals as well, the absence of a toponym was quite often compensated with a patronym. It seems that in this case too, by analogy with those presented in chapter one, part three, representatives of aristocratic families are concerned. They were the honorary entourage of the ruler not only in the Palace during solemn processions and ceremonies, but also during military campaigns and expeditions. They were always at the emperor's disposal as a contingent ready to be dispatched any moment to important tactical and strategic places.

1. Δοῦξ-κατεπάνω

They have similar development and significance having been identical during some periods. δοῦξ has a Latin origin, while κατεπάνω (ὁ ἐπάνω) – a Greek one. They were used according to the peculiarities of the given region and in compliance with the period under discussion.

They generally mean a military commander, who until the IXth c. commanded a military division within a given theme and was subordinate to the local strategos. Subsequently (in the third quarter of the Xth c. and specifically in the period reflected in the Escorial taktikon) we find them as commanders of the tagmata resident in the respective theme, to which the strategoi of the neighboring smaller themes were subordinate in critical situations. Thus, a strategic belt of douxdoms, katepanates and their adjoining strategia was created in the Empire. That was a characteristic feature especially of the frontier regions. The doux or katepano was appointed directly by the emperor and was responsible solely before him.

Regarding the large traditional themes in the interior of the Empire, some evolutionary changes in their administration and defense are observed. In compliance with the general processes in the Empire, the role of the mercenary army (tagmata) increased at the expense of the thematic one (volunteer troops) formerly under the command of doukes and katepanos. That led to the increase of their role in the region and to the gradual accumulation in their hands of other functions, besides the military ones, concerning civil administration; thus, the strategoi were gradually replaced with katepanos and doukes. Volume one of the present research dealt with seals bearing the position of katepano or doux connected with the name of the principal settlement where he resided. It most often coincided with the former thematic

structure, but there were new centers as well. Since the enthronement of Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118), there had been a tendency for a final establishment of the position of doux and making it the only possible position.

But there are also dignitaries whose seals bear no toponyms, just like earlier with seals of katepanos, strategoi, tourmarchai, kommerkiarioi, etc. What were they then?

Commanders of troops of the tagmata at the emperor's disposal, who were dispatched at the head of military contingents where deemed necessary, or high-ranking dignitaries experienced in military science and civil administration, who were at the emperor's disposal and had to be sent when there was a vacancy in the province.

Perhaps both possibilities were valid. One should consider each case separately.

The origin and development of these positions have been debated for a long time. Some of the studies contain the available information from narrative sources. Others tried to trace down the development of this position. In this connection, the assumption of the rank development from strategos to doux generally accepted as promotion should be ruled out.

Lit. Ahrweiler, *Recherches*, 52-67; Oikonomides, *Listes*, 342, 344, 349, 354; Wasilewski, *Duc, catepan et pronotes*, 233-239; Oikonomides, *Evolution*, 148-149; Cheynet, *Du stratege - au duc*, 181-194; Kühn, *Armee*, 159-169.

1444. Ἀνδρόνικος Φιλοκάλης βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω (1060s-1070s)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20188. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-19 (18?) 3 mm. W. 4.18 g. Low-quality imprint, made in a loose boulloterion. The imprint on the rev. slipped and moved 7 mm aside. The blank was smaller than the dies. The letters from the text are not distinct, some preserved only in outline. Nevertheless, the reading is secure.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 323; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 733.

Parallels: Further five specimens from the same boulloterion were found in Istanbul (unpublished in DO. 77. 34. 24); Srem, modern Serbia, (see SBS, 3, 117-118, no. 3) and unpublished in the collection of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, no 1978.61 (originates from Asia Minor); in Istanbul (Istanbul, III, 554 [309]; and in the O'Hara collection, no. 20.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with medallion. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription in seven lines:

.. ΕΡ'Θ' | .. CΩΔ8Λ' | ...PONIKΩ | ..CTAPXHS | ..TEΠANΩ | .ΩΦΗΛΟ | .ΑΛΗ
[Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) [τῶ] σῶ δούλ(ω) [Ἀνδ]ρονίκω [βε]στάρχη (καὶ)
[κα]τεπάνω [τῶ] Φηλο[κ]άλη

Additional information:

A complete and very well-preserved specimen having belonged to Andronikos Philokales only as vestarches was offered at Auction Gorny & Mosch, no. 156, 5 March 2007, Lot number: 2542.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with medallion before her chest. Sigla: M-P || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΑΝΔΡΟΝ' | ΡΕCTAPX' | ΤΩΦΙΛΟ | - ΚΑΛΗ -
Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἀνδρον(ίκω) βεστάρχη(η) τῶ Φιλοκάλη

1445-1446. Βαρδάνιος Βαλανέας δισύπατος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s)

1445. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 2387. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-28 (27) 3 mm. W. 10.70 g. Well-centered and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 327; Jordanov, F. Names, no.81.

1446. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 24819. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. D. 20-21 (?) 3 mm. W. 4.66 g. Incomplete imprint. Blank quite smaller than the diameter of the dies, but nevertheless a well-centered imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 2; Jordanov, F. Names, no.82.
Both specimens come from the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: ☉-NI-K' || Λ-AO-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑΡΔ'ΔΙC | ΠΑΤ'ΣΚΑΤΕ | ΠΑΝΩΤΩ | ΡΑΛΝΕΑ | -✕-
+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) Βαρδ(ανίω) δισ(υ)πάτ(ω) (καὶ) κατεπάνω τῷ Βαλ(α)νέα

1447. Βαρδάνιος Βαλανέας πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav. Found in the course of excavations in the Palace under the supervision of M. Vaklinova in 1997. D. 24-24 (?) 1.5-2 mm.
Ed. Vaklinova, M. An Unpublished Byzantine Seal from Veliki Preslav.- Archeologia Bulgarica, 4, 2000, 1, 87-93; Jordanov, Family Names, no.83.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas as above.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑΡΔ'ΠΙ | ΣΚΑΤΕΠΝ | ΤΩΡΑΛΑ | -NEA
+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) Βαρδ(ανίω) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) κατεπ(ά)ν(ω) τῷ Βαλανέα

1448. Βασιλάκης πρωτοπρόεδρος καὶ δοῦξ (?-1078)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 2. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-27 (25) 4 mm. W. 16.20 g. Incomplete imprint due to slipping of the blank at the strike (especially on the reverse with the text) rather than the equal size of the dies and the blank.
Ed. Мухомов, Печати № 41; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 86.
Parallels: The Schlumberger collection, Sceaux inedits, no. 333, contains a bulla conceivably struck in the same boulloterion, but since it is not documented and illustrated, I cannot be sure.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a high-backed throne holding a medallion of Christ before her breast.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΘΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩC. | ΔΟΝΛΩΡΑ. | ΛΑΚΙΩΑτΠ. | ΕΔΡΩSΔ. | -ο-
+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σήῳῃ δούλῳ Βαήσ(ι)ήλακίω (πρω)τ(ο)πήρ(ο)ήέδρω
(καὶ) δῆουκ(ι)ή

1449-1451. Βασίλειος Ἀποκάπης μάγιστρος καὶ δοῦξ (1064-1065)

1449. Private collection (Jordan Kassabov from the village of Bradvari, Silistra region). Found on the land of the village. D. 30-33 (24) 3.6 mm. Incomplete imprint. The text on either side of the reverse is not imprinted.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 43.

1450. RHM-Silistra, no. 54 [1980]. Found on the land of the town. D. 20-34 (24) 3 mm. Half of a bulla with what was once a good imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 44.

1451. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 191. Originates from northeastern Bulgaria. It was sold to the Museum by Jheko Zahariev Byulbyulev from Harmanli, whose seals mainly originate from Silistra. D. 23-25(24) 3 mm. A truncated bulla, incomplete imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 45.

1451A. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad [I 2009]). Find-spot: Preslav ?. D. 24-35 (?) 2.1 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. A large fragment broken.
Unpublished.
The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
Parallels: Barnea, Paristrion, 270-272, found in Nufarul; unpublished from the collection of Zacos, III. no 1458/6. Struck in the same boulloterion as our specimens.

Obv. St. Basil standing, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: ☉-R-A || CIA . . .

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

1. + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | . ACIAE.. | . AΓICT . . | . RECT'SΔ8 | ΚΤΩΑΠ. | ΚΑΠ'
2. . ΚΕΡ'Θ' | . . CIAE.. | . . . ICTPΩ | . . . T'SΔ8 | ΚΤΩΑΠΟ | ΚΑΠ'
3. | | . . PICT. . | . . ECT'SΔ8 | . . . ΑΠ. | ΚΑΠ'
4. | RACIAEI. | . AΓICT . . | . . ECT'SΔ. | ΚΤΩΑΠ. |

When juxtaposing the four specimens struck in the same boulloterion, we can read:
+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(ή)θ(ει) ἡΒήασιλεῆίω μήαγίστρω, βέστ(η) (καὶ) δουκὶ τῷ Ἀποκάπ(η)

1452. Βρυένιος Βατάτζης ἀνθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)

Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov from Elhovo). Recovered at the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elkhovo. D. 26 mm. It gives the impression that the relief with the representation of the Virgin is high and of good quality. Due to poor centering of the strike, the first line reverse was not imprinted.
Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 11; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 90.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin, wearing chiton and maphorion, holding medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

..... | ΤΩCΩΔ8'|RPVENIΩ | ΠΡΙΑΝΘVΠ' | SKATEΠΑΝΩ | ΤΩRATA | -TH-
[+Θ(εοτό)κε βο(ή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῳ δού(λῳ) Βρυεν(ίῳ) π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ) (καὶ)
κατεπάνω τῷ Βατάτζ(η)

1453. Γεώργιος Μονομαχάτος μάγιστρος καὶ δοῦξ (1070s)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-27 mm. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Јорданов**, *F. Names*, no. 472.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin standing frontally, holding Christ on l. arm.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΘΚΕ.. | ΤΩCΩΔΟ... | ΓΕΩΡΓΙΩΜΑ | ΓΙCΤΡΩC Δ8 | ΚΙΤΩΜΟΝΩ | ΜΑΧΑΤ'
+Θ(εοτό)κε ἡβ(οή)θ(ει)ῆ τῷ σῶ δοῦλῳ Γεωργίῳ μαγίστρῳ (καὶ) δοικὶ τῷ
Μονωμαχάτ(ω)

1454-1461. Γρηγόριος Μαυροκατακαλὼν ἀνθύπατος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)

A. κατεπάνω

1454. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20109. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D.19-20 (16) 4 mm. W. 7.80 g. Well-preserved but low-quality imprint. More than half of the letters on the rev. are unclear and double-struck.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Преслав, № 328; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.442.

1455. RHM-Silistra, no. 39. Found in the town. D.16.5-17.5 (16) 2.5 mm. Well-centered imprint, but some of the letters are indistinct, presumably later damaged.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Силистра, I, № 7; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 443.

1456. RHM-Shumen, no. 14814. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 16.5-16 mm. W. 4.50 g. Complete but poorly-preserved imprint. Worn surface, particularly of the rev.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 444.

The three specimens come from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ-Δ-Η-Μ-Ι|| Τ-Ρ-Ι-Ο-С

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΩ | ΚΑΤΕΠΑΝΩ | ΤΩΜΑΥΡΟ | ΚΑΤΑΚΑ | - ΛΩΝ -
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Γρηγορίῳ κατεπάνω τῷ Μαυροκατακαλὼν

B. ἀνθύπατος καὶ κατεπάνω:

1457. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22151. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 12-22 (19 ?) 3 mm. Half specimen of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Преслав № 330; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.445.

1458. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 54. According to T. Totev, supervisor of the excavations, it was found in the Stamboliolou locality, which I doubt. I suppose the same find-spot as the above. D.20-20 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, particularly on the rev.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.446.

1459. RHM-Silistra, no. 86. Find-spot: the town. D. 19-19 mm. Heavily worn imprint with almost obliterated letters of the text. Holed to the r. of St. Demetrios and presumably used as a fishing lead.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Силистра, I, № 6; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.447.

1460. Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: the village of Vetren, district of Silistra. D. 20-20 (17) 2.5 mm, W. 6.26 g.

Ed. **Билик**, Фамилни имена, N 4; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.448.

The four specimens come from the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Unpublished specimen from DO. 58. 106. 2018.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios as above, but struck with a different matrix. Vertical inscription:

Θ-Δ-Η-Μ-Ι|| Τ-Ρ-Ι-Ο-С

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

a) + | ΓΡΗ . . . | ΑΝΘΝ . . . | SKAT . . . | ΝΩΤΩ . . . | ΡΟΚΑ . . | ΚΑΛ .
b) | . ΡΗΓΟΡΙ | . ΝΘΝΠΙΑΤ' | . ΚΑΤΕΠΑ | ΝΩΤΩΜΑΥ | ΡΟΚΑΤΑ | ΚΑΛΩ
d) + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙ' | ΑΝΘΝΠΙΑΤ' | SKATΕΠΑ | ΝΩΤΩΜΑΥ | ΡΟΚΑΤΑ | ΚΑΛΩ
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Γρηγορί(ω) ἀνθυπατ(ω) (καὶ) κατεπάνω τῷ
Μαυροκατακαλὼ(ν)

C. ἀνθύπατος καὶ κατεπάνω:

1461. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 13130. Find-spot: Silistra D. 19-19.5 (17) 3 mm. Once a good imprint, now the bulla is partially preserved. A portion though small is chipped out of it and some letters are corroded.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Силистра, I, № 5; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.449.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios as above, but struck with a different matrix. The saint holds the spear in front of his chest and not against his shoulder. Vertical inscription: Θ-Δ-Η-Μ-Ι|| Τ-Ρ-Ι-Ο-С

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΚΕ.. | ΓΡΗ..ΡΙ | ΩΑΝΘΝ.Α | ΤΩSKAT..Α | ΝΩΤΩΜΑΥ | ΡΟΚΑΤΑ | ΚΑΛΩ
+Κ(ύρι)ε [β(οή)θ(ει)] Γρη[γο]ρίῳ ἀνθυ[π]ατῳ (καὶ) κατ[επ]άνω τῷ
Μαυροκατακαλὼ(ν)

1462. Δημήτριος Κατακαλὼν βέστης, ἀνθύπατος πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)

RHM-Silistra, no. 57. Found in the course of excavations of the inner fortress wall of the medieval Dristra in 1986. D. 26-27.5 (25) 3.5 mm. Incomplete imprint due to off-centering and slipping of the blank in the boulloterion. Parts of the depiction and inscription are out of the blank.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Силистра, III, № 3; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.304.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), his l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: || Τ-ΡΗ-Ο-С

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΙΜΙ... | ΩΠΡΙΑΝ.. | ΠΑΤΩΡΕCΤΙ | .ΚΑΤΕΠΑ | ΝΤΩΚΑΤΑ | ΚΑΛΩ
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [Δ]ιμι[τρί]ω π(ατ)ρι(κίω) ἀν[θυ]πάτῳ βέστι [(καὶ)]
κατεπάν(ω) τῷ Κατακαλὼ(ν)

1463. Ἰωάννης Γαβαλᾶς βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω (third quarter, XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 895. Reported find-spot: Rodosto, from where it was carried during the war. D. 18-20 (16) 3.6 mm. W. 7.10 g. Well-centered, but weak imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 18; Jordanov, F. Names, no.128.
Parallels: An unpublished and better printed specimen is preserved in DO. 58. 106. 3725.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
 + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΙΩΡΕC | - TH -

Rev. Inscription of four lines:
 ΚΑΙΚΑ | ΤΕΠΑΝΩ | ΤΩΓΑΡΑ | - ΛΑ -
 +Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σ τῷ δ(ούλῳ) Ἰω(άννῃ) βέστη καὶ κατεπάνω τῷ
 Γαβαλά

1464. Ἰωάννης Συναδηνὸς κουροπαλάτης καὶ δοῦξ (late XI c.)

Historical Museum, Kazanluk. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-24 (over 24) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Perforated in the upper part. All this renders the reading difficult. The text is restored largely following other specimens of the same individual with the same positions preserved in collections abroad.
Ed. Йорданов, Брое, III.4; Jordanov, F. Names, no.686.
No exact parallels.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a throne, holding a medallion of Christ before her breast.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:
 +ΙΩΑΝ.. | Κ8ΡΟΠΑ.. | . ΣΑΟΝΞΟ | ..ΝΑΙΔΙ.
 +Ἰωάν[νης] κουροπα[λάτ(ης)] (καὶ) δοῦξ ὁ [Συ]ναδι[ν(ος)]

1465-1466. Κατακαλὼν / Καμένος / Κεκαυμένος ανθύπατος, πατρίκιος καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)

1465. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 117. Found accidentally in Pliska on the terrain south of the Little Palace. D. 28-28.5 (27?) 4 mm. W. 23. 04 g. Incomplete imprint. The bulla itself is corrugated and as it seems burnt. This renders its reading difficult and mostly the last line of the reverse, where the patronym should be inscribed. I cannot add anything else to what was said by its first publisher, except that there is space for one or two letters at the beginning of the line and that the last letter resembles N.
Ed. Маслев, Печати, № 3; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 257.

1466. Archaeological Museum, Varna, no. VIII 209. According to its former owners, treasure-hunters from Novi Pazar, the bulla comes from Pliska. D. 21.5- 31 (18) 3 mm. Half of a specimen with damaged letters of the text, which does not allow for an overall reading, but nevertheless makes certain corrections in the reading of the specimen already published.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 258.
Both seals were struck with the same pair of dies.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding scepter ornamented with three balls (r. hand) and globus (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:
 a. ΚΑΤΑΚ . | . ΑΝΘΥΠΙΑ | ΤΠΙΣΚΑ | . ΕΠΑΝ .. | ΚΑΜΝ

b. . ΑΤΑ . . | . 'ΑΝΘ . . . | . ΠΙΠΙΣ . . | ΤΕΠ | Κ . . .
 Κατακ[αλ(ών)] ανθύπατος) π(ατ)ρί(κιος) (καὶ) κατεπάν[ω ὁ] Καμ(έ)ν(ος)

1467-1474. [Γριγόριος] Κουρκούας δοῦξ (late XI c.)

1467. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 5362. Find-spot: the town. D. 16-19(15) 2 mm. W. 7.50 g. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.
Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 9; Jordanov, F. Names, no.372.

1468. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 5361. Find-spot: the town. D. 14-16(15) 2 mm. W. 4.60 g. Incomplete imprint, some letters are out of the blank.
Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no. 10; Jordanov, F. Names, no.373.

1469. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 5283. Find-spot: the environs of Parvomai. D. 23-25(15) 2.5 mm. W. 8.20 g. Incomplete imprint and a poorly-preserved specimen.
Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no.10; Jordanov, F. Names, no.374.

1470. Private collection (a collector from Sofia). I examined it at the Numismatic Club in Sofia on Nov. 13, 1996. D. 21-21 mm. Complete imprint but in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no.375.

1471. Private collection. Found by a treasure-hunter with a metal detector in the stronghold near Dobri Dol. D. 21-22 mm. A complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Dobri Dol, no. 7; Jordanov, F. Names, no.376.

1472. RHM-Shumen, no. 14730/4. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Dobri dol? D. 18-20 (15 ?) 4 mm. W. 7.56 g. A complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no.324.
The six specimens come from the same pair of dies.
Parallels: Unpublished specimen preserved in the collection Zacos, III, no. 1394/95-2.

Obv. Inscription of three lines.
 -. - | + ΔΟΥ | ΚΟCΦΡΑ | ΓΙΖΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines.
 ΤΑCΓΡΑ | ΦΑCΤΟΝ | ΚΟΝΡΚ8 | -Α-
 +Δουκὸς σφραγίζω τὰς γραφὰς τοῦ Κουρκούα

1473. Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 5363. Find-spot: the town. D. 20-22(?) 2 mm. W. 5.97 g. Complete, though not very well-centered imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Plovdiv, no.11; Jordanov, F. Names, no.377.

1474. Private collection (a collector from Sofia). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-21 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 378.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines.
 + | ΔΟΝΚΟC | CΦΡΑΓ | ΙΖΩ

Rev. Inscription of three lines.
 ΤΑC | ΓΡΑΦΑC | ΤΟΝΚ8Ρ | ΚΟΝΑ
 +Δουκὸς σφραγίζω τὰς γραφὰς τοῦ Κουρκούα

1475-1478. Κωνσταντῖνος Δαλασηνὸς πρόεδρος καὶ δουξ (1050s-1060s)

1475. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 23715. Find-spot: northeastern Bulgaria, probably Silistra. D. 13.5-22 (?) 3 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.158.

1476. Private collection (Asen Hadzhikostov, Stara Zagora). Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Kalugerovo, Haskovo region. D. 22-27 (?) 3 mm. Once a good imprint, now in a poor state of preservation. Parts broken. About two thirds of the whole bulla is preserved.

Ed.**Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.159.

1477. Private collection (a collector from Haskovo). I obtained a copy through D. Aladzhov. Find-spot: the stronghold near Dimitrovgrad. D. 26-27 (?)? mm. Well-centered and well-executed imprint. The bulla itself is in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.160.

1478. RHM-Shumen, no. 15483. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 206. Find-spot: Pomorie. D.20-27 (25) 3.1 mm. W. 9. 38 g. Once a good imprint. Now almost a half is missing. The reading is no problem due to available parallels.

Unpublished.

The four specimens come from the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Sode, Berlin, II, no. 372.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), his l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: O-A-ΓΙ-O-C || Δ-MH-TP-I-Ω

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- a) | . Ω | ΚΩΝ | ΔΡΩ | ΚΙΤ | C . . .
b) | . ΩCΩΔ8Λ | . ΩΝΠΡΟΕ | . ΡΩΚΑΙΔ8 | . ΙΤΩΔΑΛΑ | CHNΩ
c) + ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8 . | ΚΩΝΠΡΟΕ | ΔΡΩΚΑΙΔ8 | ΚΙΤΩΔΑΛΑ | CHNΩ
d) . ΚΕΡ' . | . . CΩΔ8 . | . . . ΠΡΟΕ | . . . ΚΑΙΔ8 | . . . ΩΔΑΛΑ | . HNΩ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Κων(σταντίνω) προέδρω καὶ δουκὶ τῷ
Δαλασηνῷ

1479-1482. Κωνσταντῖνος Οὐμπερτοπούλος 1080s-1090s

His names are attested on three or four groups of seals from Bulgaria:

A. νοβελίσσιμος καὶ δούξ

1479. RHM-Pernik no. 358. Found during clearing of the grass in the fortress church on 18th May 1970. D. 21-21 (20) 3 mm. Good imprint, but still the side letters of the text are indistinct.

Ed. **Юркува**, Перник, 117-118, табл. II.3; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.529.

Parallels: Unpublished in IFEB, no. 239. Struck in the same boulloterion. On its basis we correct some of the errors of the original publisher.

Obv. Archangel Michael standing frontally on a souppedion, with nimbus and wide-spread wings, wearing a long chiton and himation. He holds (r. hand) a labarum and a globus cruciger (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΩCΩΔ8Λ' | .ΩNNΩRE. | .CIMSΔ8K |ΙΕΡ | - T -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [τ]ῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) [Κ]ων(σταντίνω) νωβε [λι]σίμ(ω) (καὶ)
δουκ(ὶ) [τῷ Οὐμ]πέρτ(ω)

B. πρωτονοβελίσσιμος καὶ δούξ:

1480. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 26851. Found in the course of excavations near the residence of the Byzantine strategos of the city. D. 26-26 (18) 4 mm. W. 16.45 g. Good imprint with raised depiction.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Преслав, № 331; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.530.

Parallels: Another specimen struck with the same pair of dies was found in the vicinity of Sirmium, see **Barisic**, *F. Vizantijski olovni pecat iz Sirmijuma.- Zb. phill. fakult.*, 8.1, 1964, 183-190.

Obv. Archangel Michael as above, but struck with a different matrix. On either side, the sigla: M-I || X-.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | ΚΩΝΑ'ΝΩ | ΡΕΛΛΙCΗΜ' | ΣΔ8ΚΙ ΤΩ | 8ΜΠΕΡ | Τ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Κων(σταντίνω) (πρωτο)νωβελισίμ(ω)
(καὶ) δουκὶ τῷ Οὐμπέρτ(ω)

C. σεβαστός καὶ δούξ:

1481. RHM-Pernik. Found in the course of excavations of the medieval fortress near the modern town. D. 26-26 (24) 3 mm. Its left side is more weakly printed.

Ed. **Юркува**, Перник, 119-120, табл. II.4; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.531.

Parallels: Further three specimens are preserved in the collections of Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 55. 1. 3059) and Zacos, III, no 1472/2-1. With the last two, the boulloterion seems to have been retooled at a particular point of time, since the last line ends differently with them: ΤΩ | 8ΜΠΕΡ | ΤΩΛΩ

Obv. Archangel Michael standing frontally on a souppedion with nimbus and wide-spread wings, wearing a short military tunic and a cloak. He props himself on a scepter (r. hand) with trefoil ornament and holds a globus cruciger (l. hand). On either side, the sigla: M-I || X-A.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ' | ΚΩΝCΕΡAC | ΤΩSΔ8ΚΙΤΩ | 8ΜΠΕΡ | ΤΩ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Κων(σταντίνω) σεβαστῷ (καὶ) δουκὶ τῷ
Οὐμπέρτω

D.

1482 Historical Museum, Silistra. Found in the course of excavations in the town in 1998. D. 25-26 mm. Poor state of preservation. A portion chipped.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.532.

No parallels known.

Obv. Archangel Michael standing frontally on a souppedion as a warrior. He holds a sword (r. hand) and his l. hand is set on his waist.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.....' | 8Λ' | Κ.....ΙΑ | Τ.....Ω | Τ...ΙΕΡ | ..
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ]ούλ(ω) Κ[ων(σταντίνω)] τ[ῷ Οὐμ]περ[τω]

1483. Λανδούλφος σεβαστός και δούξ (XI-XII c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14644. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Thus, the information on its find-spot is not certain. However, southern Bulgaria and the Plovdiv region is a plausible one. D. 24-25 (23) 4 mm. W. Weak imprint. Some letters are blotted out and obliterated, but the reading of the text is not problematic.

Ed. Йорданов, Западни, № 2, 183-185; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 398.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion was found in Athens. See Zekos, Athens, p. 82, no. 2; J.-C. Cheynet, C. Morrisson. Texte et l'image sur le sceaux byzantins: les raisons d'un choix iconographique.-SBS, 4, 1995, 18-19,

Obv. Bust of St. Matthew facing, with nimbus and himation, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-M-AT-ΘΕ-O || Θ-Π-OC-TO-Λ' : 'Ο ἅγιος Ματθεός 'Ο ἅγιος 'Αποστόλ(ης).

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΑΝΔΛ | ΦΟCΕΡΑC | ΤΟCΔΔ | ΚΑ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Λανδούλφο σεβαστο (καί) δουκὰ

1484. Μιχαήλ Μαύριξ μάγιστρος και κατεπάνω (1068-1070).

Private collection. Unspecified origin. D. 23-25 mm. Very good imprint and a bulla in a superb state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 426.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription on either side:||Ω-P-Γ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛ | ΜΑΓΙCΤΡΩ | SKATEΠAN' | ΤΩΜΑV | -ΡΙΚΑ-

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Μιχαήλ μάγιστρο (καί) κατεπάνω τῷ Μαύρικα

1485-1486. Νικήτας Γλαβᾶς μάγιστρος και κατεπάνω (1060s-1070s)

1485. Private collection, according to the information of V. Pantelev from Varna. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-21 mm.

Ed. Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 145.

1486. Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found in the course of archaeological excavations of the Palace Church site in 2006.D. 20-21 mm. The specimen was struck on a small corroded blank which would render the reading difficult provided no parallels were available.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Unpublished specimens in the collection of DO.58. 106. 2205 and DO. 55. 1. 4221.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+CΦPA | ΓICNICKH | TAMAΓI | CTPOV

+CΦ . . | . ICNICKH | . AMAΓI | . . . OV

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΚΑΙ | ΚΑΤΕΠΑ | ΝΩΤΟΝ | ΓΛ . R .

ο . ΑΙ ο | ΚΑ | Ν | ΓΛΑΡΑ

+Σφραγίς Νικήτα μαγίστρου και κατεπάνω τὸν Γλαβᾶ(ν)

The name of Niketas Glabas is attested in the narrative sources. John Skylitzes reports that in the war against the Pechenegs in 1050, the Roman army would have been lost but for the sudden march out from Adrianoupolis of Νικήτας πρωτοσπαθᾶριος ὁ Γλαβᾶς τοποτηρητῆς ὦν τοῦ τάγματος τῶν σχολῶν. The Patzinaks saw; and as they were apprehensive of the arrival of Basil the Synkellos with the troops of the Bulgaricon (Skylitzes, 471.2-4).

Known are further two groups of seals bearing the names of Niketas Glabas:

a. in his capacity as πρωτοσπαθᾶριος και τοποτηρητῆς, according to an unpublished specimen in DO (55. 1. 3036);

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. ΙΚΗΤ' | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘ' | ..ΠΟΤΙΡ | ΤΟΓΛΑ | ΡΑC

b. as πατρίκιος-ὑπατος και στρατηγός, see Mordtmann, Conference, p.48; Schlumberger, Sig., p. 667, now in MK-Wien, no. 379, see Wassiliou, Seibt, no. 296.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev.: - | ΝΙΚΗΤ' | ΠΡΙVΠΙΑ | Τ'CΤΡΑΤ' | Γ'ΟΓΛΑ | -Ρ'-

Provided we accept that all these seals cover one person, Niketas Glabas reported in Skylitzes, then his cursus honorum will have the following outlines:

a. πρωτοσπαθᾶριος και τοποτηρητῆς ὦν τοῦ τάγματος τῶν σχολῶν (1050)

b. πατρίκιος και στρατηγός (1050s-1060s)

c. μάγιστρος και κατεπάνω (1060s-1070s)

The question which arises in our case is about the connection between these events and the discovery of Niketas Glabas's seal in Preslav. He must have taken part in the battle against the Pechenegs in 1053, which was a catastrophe for the Byzantines. However, as it seems Niketas managed to survive in order to meet him later as katepano and magistros in which capacity he maintained his correspondence to Preslav.

1487. Νικηφόρος Βατάτζης βεστάρχης και κατεπάνω (1060s)

RHM-Silistra, no. 36 [83]. Found on the land of the town. D. 23-26 (20) 3 mm. A good imprint but a bulla in a poor state of preservation. Oxidated surface.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, I, № 14; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 96.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || M - T - P'

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΑΓΙΕ | ΔΙΜΙΤΡΗ|ΕΡΟΗΘ'ΝΙΚΗ | ΦΟΡ'ΡΕCΤΑΡ | ΧSΚΑΤΕΠΑ | ΝΟΤΟΡΑ |

TΑΤΗ

+ "Αγιε Διμιτρήε βαήθ(ει) Νικηφόρ(ω) βεστάρχ(η) (καί) κατεπάνω το

Βατάτζη

1488-1489. Νικηφόρος Σαραντηνός πρόεδρος, μάγιστρος και κατεπάνω (last third, XI c.)

A. μάγιστρος καὶ κατεπάνω

1488. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain. Purchased from a middleman from Russe. D. 22-24 mm. Incomplete imprint. The first line of the text remained out of the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.641.

Parallels: Another unpublished specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection DO 55. 1. 3291.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription in two columns: O-A-ΓI-O-S || ΔH-MI-TP-IO-C

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟ | ΜΑΓΙΣΤΡΩ | ΣΚΑΤΕΠΑΝ' | ΤΩCΑΡΑΝ | ΤΗΝΩ

[+ K(ύρι)ε β(ο)ήθ(ει)] Νικηφόρο μαγίστρω (καὶ) κατεπάνω(ω) τῷ Σαραντηνῷ

B. πρόεδρος καὶ κατεπάνω

1489. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain. I documented it in Shumen; it was among the seals, which Emil Kosev had collected with the intention to sell them in Sofia. D. 19-24 mm. Incomplete imprint. The first letters of almost every line remained out of the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.642.

No parallels known.

Parallels: Gorny & Mosch Auction 156. 5 March 2007 Lot number: 2544

Obv. St. Demetrios standing, as above. No remains of the inscription.

Rev. Inscription in six lines:

..ΕΡ'Θ' | ..ΚΗΦΟΡ'Α' | ΔΡΩCΚΑ | ΕΠΑΝΩΤΩ | CΑΡΑΝΤΙ | ΝΩ

[+ K(ύρι)]ε β(ο)ήθ(ει) [Nι]κηφόρ(ο) (προ)[έ]δρω (καὶ) κα[τ]επάνω τῷ

Σαραντηνῷ

1490-1491. Ῥωμανὸς Διογένης βεστάρχης καὶ κατεπάνω (1050s-1060s)

1490. RHM-Silistra, no. 62. Found in the stronghold near the village of Vetren. D.26-29 (27) 5 mm. Unsuccessful imprint both because the blank was smaller in diameter than the dies and because it was off-centered. The channel opening was not pressed in the boulloterion. The surface of the boulloterion is covered with lead oxides.

Ed. **Атанасов-Йорданов**, *Ветрен*, № 116; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 167.

1491. RHM-Shumen, no. 15239. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 21-35 mm. W. 17.44 g. Heavily corroded half. The restoration of the text is on the basis of the parallel.

Ed. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no.326

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No exact parallels. Another specimen struck in a different boulloterion is preserved in the unpublished collection of Zacos, II, no. 1552. A specimen, offered at the auction Hirrsch, 177, 10-13. 02. 1993, no. 1419, was struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore Stratelates holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο-ΔΩ-ΡΟ-С || О-СТ-Р-ТІА-ТІС

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | ΡΩΜΑ.ΩΡΕ. | Τ'ΡΧ'.ΚΑΤ'ΠΑ | Ν'Τ.ΔΙΟ | Γ.ΝΙ

[+K(ύρι)ε β(ο)ήθ(ει)] Ῥωμα[ν]ῷ βε[σ]τάρχ(η)[(καὶ)] κατ(ε)πάν(ω) τ[ῷ]
Διογ[έ]νι

1492-1493. Σαμουήλ Ἀλουσιάνος πρόεδρος καὶ δούξ (early 1070s).

He is represented by two different groups of seals:

A.

1492. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-26 mm. Complete and a well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Корпус*, с. 180, N 14; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.25.

Parallels: Further four specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the collections of the Hermitage (M-5945, see **Шандровская**, с. С. Из истории Болгарии..., 457-458, рис. 1); Zarnitz (see **Seibt**, **Zarnitz**, *Kunstwerk.*, Nr. 3.1.9); Zacos, III (see Spink Auction 135, no. 280, and unpublished in Fogg A. M. (no. 280); Gorny & Mosch Auction 156. Auction date: 5 March 2007. Lot number: 2543.

Obv. The Virgin seated frontally on a backless throne holding Christ on her lap.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΘΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘΕΙ | CΑΜΟΝΗΛ | ΡΡΟΕΔΡΩ | CΔ8ΚΙΤΩ | ΑΛΟΝCΙ | ΑΝΩ

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει Σαμουήλ πρόεδρω (καὶ) δουκὶ τῷ Ἀλουιάνω

B.

1493 Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 53. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-30 mm. Complete and a well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Златарски**, с. Н. Моливдовул на Самуил Алусиан. - *ИБАД*, 1, 1922, 86-102. - В: *Избрани произведения*, 2. С., 1984, 172-185; **Йорданов**, *Корпус*, с.180, N 15 **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.24.

Parallels: Further three specimens struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the Athens Numismatic Museum (no. 188a, see **Konstantopoulos**, Athens, no. 188a; Stavrakos, no. 9); the Free Berlin University (see **Sode**, Berlin II, no. 393) and an unpublished one in Zacos, III, no. 1464.

Obv. The Virgin seated frontally on a high-backed throne holding Christ on her lap. Circular inscription along a border of dots: + ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | CΑΜ8ΗΛ | ΡΡΟΕΔΡΩ | ΚΑΙΔΟΝΚΙ | ΤΩΑΛΟΝ | CΙΑΝΩ

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλω Σαμουήλ πρόεδρω καὶ δουκὶ τῷ Ἀλουιάνω

1493A. Στέφανος Κοντοστέφανος νωβελλίστιμος καὶ δούξ (before 1094)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 29-30 mm. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 359.

Parallels: Fogg A.M. no. 2080; DO. 58. 106. 3578 (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, II, no. 971); Wien-MK, no. 249 (see **Wassiliou**, **Seibt**, no. 249) and unpublished from the Hermitage (M-2316; M-2345; M-3344;M-9917).

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: O-A-ΓI-O || ΓΕ-WP-ΓΙΟ' : 'Ο ἅγιο(ς) Γεώργιο(ς).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' | CΤΕΦΑΝΩ | ΝWΡΕΛΛΙC | ΜWСΔΟΝΚΗ | TWKONTW | CΤΕΦΑΝ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Στεφάνω νωβελλισ(ί)μω καὶ δουκὴ τῷ Κοντοστεφάν(ω)

1494. N., Γλαβᾶς βέστης καὶ κατεπάνω (1060s)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, n. 24820. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Zlati Voyvoda. D. 21.6-25 (22) 3.5 mm. W. 11.77 g. Incomplete imprint. That renders the reading difficult, especially of line 3 which could be deciphered as follows: + M[IXAHA] or I]ΩM[AGICT'] = 'I]ω(άννης) μ[αγιστρ(ω)]βέστι καὶ κατεπάνω τῷ Γλαβᾶ.
Ed. **Jordanov**, Zlati Voyvoda, no. 5; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 146.
Parallels: An unpublished specimen in Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 55. 1. 3034). Unfortunately only three lines on the reverse can be read.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of seven lines, final between two horizontal bars:

..... | . ΩCΩ... | ΩM..... | ΡΕCΤΙΚΑΙ | ΚΑΤΕΠΑΝΩ | ΤΩΓΛΑΡ | -Α-

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τ]ῷ σῳ [δούλ]ω Μ[ιχαήλ] βέστι καὶ κατεπάνω τῷ Γλαβᾶ

2. Στρατηγὸς

The strategos was a supreme governor of a province subordinate solely to the emperor in matters regarding its administration. He was the emperor's deputy, his representative appointed directly by him. He combined in his hands the military and civil authorities. He was in charge of the recruitment and condition of the army in his theme, the fortification system of the towns, etc.

Some significant changes are observed from the second half of the Xth c. They are best illustrated in the Escorial taktikon. Along with the strategoi of the old traditional themes, there is mention of strategoi of new smaller themes located mostly along the frontiers and united by a doux or katepano. The region subordinate to such a strategos frequently covered the territory of a town or its surroundings. The functions and rights of these minor strategoi almost overlapped with those of their counterparts governing the larger themes. However, in contrast to the IXth-Xth centuries, a tendency is observed of restricting their powers, for example, in the civil administration, where the judge dominated.

Again from the late Xth c. another tendency is also observed, which caused the seals to fall into this rubric, namely, the existence of a large number of strategoi not bearing a toponym, i.e. the absence of the name of the administrative or military unit they must have been in charge of. While in the previous part dealing with katepanos and doukes it was assumed that certain cases concerned commanders of units from the tagma dispatched to a definite region to cope with a particular danger, is it so with the startegoi without toponyms? Were they subordinate to the katepano or doux placed ahead of the expeditionary troops, or were they the emperor's 'reserves' for filling a vacancy in the provinces?

As it is in a number of cases lacking in necessary information, in this case too the solution must not be one-sided. It may be either the one or the other.

Many of the startegoi without toponyms were attested by their seals as governors of certain larger or smaller themes as well.

The new tendencies in the development from strategos to katepano and doux have already been discussed in Part one. They are in connection with the 'tagmatisation' of the army. Both the minor and major strategoi were gradually ousted by a doux.

The office of strategos gradually lost its administrative sense and was last mentioned in 1124. The term strategos continued to be used in narrative sources until the end of the existence of Byzantium, but only in technical sense meaning a military commander taking part in hostilities.

Lit. **Ahrweiler**, *Recherches*, 52-67; **Oikonomides**, *Listes*, 342, 344, 349, 354; **Wasilewski**, *Duc, catepan et pronotes*, 233-239; **Oikonomides**, *Evolution*, 148-149; **Cheyne**, *Du stratege - au duc*, 181-194; **Kühn**, *Armee*, 159-169.

1495-1502. 'Αέτιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (first quarter of the XIth century)

A.

1495. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17563. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21.5-22 (18) 2 mm. W. 5.10 g. Good imprint but with later damages.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 334

1496. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17266. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 14-21 (18) 1 mm, W. 5.10 g. Good imprint, but only half preserved.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 335

1497. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17275a. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-24 (18) 3.9 mm, W. 9.20 g. The bulla is holed and was probably suspended from the document.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 336

1498. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18086. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 16-26 (18) 3.5 mm, W. 5.10 g. Good imprint, more than a half is preserved.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 337

1499. RHM-Shumen, no. 15226. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 24-25 (19) 3 mm. W. 14.28 g. Once a good imprint, now scratched with a blade in the form of a grid.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 327.
The five specimens were struck with the same die.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο || Δ-ΩΡ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | +ΑΕΤΙ | Ο'Ρ'Α'CΠΑ | ΘΑΡ'SCT | ΡΑΤΙΓ' | - ο -
+ 'Αέτιος(ς) β'(πρωτο)σπαθάρ(ιος) (καὶ) σταρτιγ(ός)

B.

1500. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17003. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-24 (18-20) 3 mm, W. 10.00 g. The reverse is completely obliterated with a dull object.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 338

1501. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18095. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 16-26 (?) 2 mm, W. 5.10 g. Half of a low-quality imprint.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 339

1502. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18407. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-25 (18-?) 5 mm,

W. 15.13 g. Thick low-quality blank. Unsuccessful imprint.
 Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 340
 The three specimens were struck with the same boulloterion.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Simple cross. In the fields above: $\overline{\text{IC}}-\overline{\text{XC}}$.

Rev. Struck with the same die as above:

- o - | +ΑΕΤΙ | Ο'Ρ'Α'СПΑ | ΘΑΡ'ССТ | ΡΑΤΙΓ' | - o -
 + 'Αέτιο(ς) β'(πρωτο)σπαθάρ(ιος) (καὶ) στρατιγ(ὸς)

1503. Ἀναστάσιος Πολύς πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18408. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-26 (15) 3 mm.
 W. 13.57 g. Well-preserved specimen struck on a rather strange blank. The mixture seems not to have mingled well in the mold. The imprint itself is complete and well-preserved.
 Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 341; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 588.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ∙ ∙ - | +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΑΝΑCΤ | CΙΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

$\overline{\text{PPIIS}}$ | CΤΡΑΤΙ | ΓΩΤΩΠ' | - ΛV -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Ἀναστασίῳ π(ατ)ρι(κίῳ) (καὶ) στρατιγῷ
 τῷ Πολῷ

1504. Ἀνδρόνικος Ν., δισύπατος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half of the XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 23706. Find-spot: Northeastern Bulgaria. D. 17-20 mm. Incomplete imprint since the blank was smaller in diameter than the dies.
 Unpublished.
 No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

.ΦΡΑΓΙ' | .ΝΔΡΟΝΙ | Κ'ΔVCV | ..ΤΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

... | CΤΡΑ.. | ΓΩΤΩ.. |

[+ Σ]φραγί(ς) [Ἀ]νδρόνικ(ω) δυσυ[πά]τω [καὶ] στρα[τη]γῷ τῷ

The metrical text and the title δισύπατος point to a general date in the second half of the XIth c. With the absence of the patronym, it is impossible to say who this Andronikos was.

1505-1509. Ἀντρόνικος στρατηγὸς (second half of the XI c.)

The five specimens were struck in the same boulloterion and originate from the Strategia of Preslav.
 Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 342-346; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 328
 No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist with both hands open before him. Vertical inscription in two columns: $\Theta-\overline{\text{I}\overline{\text{C}}}-\text{O} \parallel \text{ΠP}-\text{O}-\Delta-\text{P}'$

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔ. | Λ'ΑΝΤΡΟ | ΝΙΚΩCΤ | ΡΑΤΙΓ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ[ού]λ(ῳ) Ἀντρονίκῳ στρατιγ(ῷ)

The name Ἀντρόνικος is quite uncommon and probably attests to an Armenian origin. Its only parallels are the two bullae of Ἀντρόνικος διοικητῆς καὶ ἐκ προσώπου Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως καὶ Μεσημβρίας found in the Strategia of Preslav (the third quarter of the XIth century, see Jordanov, G. Names, no. 10.3).

It could be assumed that it applies to one and the same person. It should be noted that Antronikos did not hold a title. In both cases he presented himself by his offices. The office στρατηγὸς is undoubtedly higher than ἐκ προσώπου. After having been ἐκ προσώπου of Adrianoupolis and Mesembria, Antronikos was promoted to the office of strategos.

1510-1516. Ἀρκάδιος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

1510-1514. The five specimens were struck in the same boulloterion and originate from the Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 347-351.

1515. RHM-Shumen, no. 14211. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 11-21 (?) 3.5 mm. W. 4. 23 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 352; Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 329.

1516. RHM-Shumen, no. 14712. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-26 mm. W. 4.64 g.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 329.

1516A. RHM-Shumen. Former collection of V. Stankov from Batak, no. 240. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 16-25 () 3 mm. W. 7.42 g. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished.

The eight specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘ'ΤΩCΩ | Δ8ΛΩΑΡ | ΚΑΔΙΩ | -✕-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΠΡΩΤΟ | CΠΑΘΑΡ' | ΚΑΙCΤΡΑ | ΤΗΓΩ * | -✕-

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἀρκαδίῳ πρωτοσπαθα(ρίῳ) καὶ στρατηγῷ

1517-1521. Βαρδάνιος Βαλνέας πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid-XI c.)

A.

1517. RHM-Silistra, no. 51. Found during excavations in Dristra in 1992. D. 27-27.5 mm. Well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 75(77).

1518. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 28-29 mm. Well-preserved specimen.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 76 (78).

1519. RHM-Shumen, no. 14818. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. According to its former owner, it was found in the Pliska area. D. 21.5-23 (22) 3 mm. W. 10.44 g. Well-centered. Once a good imprint, but now in the center a hole 9 mm in diameter; used as a weight for a spindle (?).

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 79.

1520. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, field no.1. Found by Dimitar Ivanov while walking the pedestrian area to the west of the Palace Basilica in the Inner City of Pliska at 5 m from the southwest corner. D. 24.-24 (22) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

The four specimens come from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas facing, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || Λ-AO-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑΡΔΑΝ | Α'C ΠΑΘ'S | CΤΡΑΤ'Γ' | ΤΟΝΡΑ | - ΛΝ'-

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Βαρδαν(ίω) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) στρατ(η)γ(ῶ) τὸν Βαλ(α)ν(έα)

B.

1521. Private collection. I examined it at a meeting of the numismatists in Veliko Turnovo on 5th April 2003.

Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-28 mm. Fragment of about one third of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 80

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas, as above. Preserved from the inscription: || Λ-AO-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... |.. CΩΔ8' | ...Δ'Α'CΠ |...PAT'T | ...NΕΑ-

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῶ] σῶ δού(λω) Βαρ]δ(ανίω) (πρωτο)σπ[αθ(αρίω) (καὶ) στ]ρατ(ηγῶ) τ(ῶ) [Βαλ(α)]νέα

1522. Βάρδας Καζάνης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half, XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no.13614. Found in Silistra. Dimensions: 22.5-24 (19) 3 mm. Good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Силистра*, I, № 3; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no.244.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding the book (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ-NI-K' || Λ-AO-C

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΡΑΡΔΑΑ' | CΠΑΘΑΡ'S | CΤΡΑΤΙΓ' | ΩΤΟΚΑ | ΖΑΚΙ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Βάρδα (πρωτο)σπαθαρίω) (καὶ) στρατηγῶ το Καζάκι

1523. Γεώργιος Κακίκης στρατηγὸς (second half of XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 25-24 mm. Good but incomplete imprint, which renders difficult the reading of the patronym. The suggested reading is only one possible variant.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no.251.

No parallels known.

Obv. A superb bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-ΘΕ-Ω ||

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟ | CΤΡΑΤΙΓ' | ΤΩΚ... | ΚΗ

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Γεωργίω στρατιγῶ τῶ Κ[ακι]κη / Κ[αζά]κη

1524-1525. Γρηγόριος Ἀλανός πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half of XI c.)

1524. RHM-Silistra. It was discovered in 1996 in the course of excavations of the fortress. D.25-27 mm.

Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 21.

1525. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-25 mm. Once a good imprint, a fragment chipped.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 22.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore facing, holding s a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

1523. | .ΩCΩΔ8' | ΓΡΙΓΩΡΙΩ | ΠΠΙCCTPA | . ΗΓΩΤΩΑ | . ΑΝΩ

1524. | | | ΠΠΙCCTPA | ΤΗΓΩΤΩΑ | ΛΑΝΩ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τ]ῶ σῶ δού(λω) Γριγωρίω π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) στρατηγῶ τῶ Ἀλάνω

1526. Γρηγόριος Κλάδων πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s-1060s)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no.16581. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21.5-24 (17) 4 mm, W. 12.42 g. Very good imprint in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed: **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 353; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.313.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Demetrios sanding, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: Θ-Δ-H-M-H || T-PI-O'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΡΙΓΟΡ' | ΠΠΙCCTPA | ΤΙΓ'ΤΩΚΛΑ | ο ΔΟΝΙ ο

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Γριγορ(ίω) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) στρατιγ(ῶ) τῶ Κλάδωνι

1527-1527A. Γρηγόριος Μαυροκατακαλὼν πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s-1060s)

1527. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18071. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18.5-21 (14) 4 mm. W. 9.80 g. Well-centered and a well-preserved imprint, but the letters are nevertheless not so

distinct.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 354; Jordanov, F. Names, no.441.

No parallels known.

1527A. RHM-Shumen, no. 15444. Find-spot: Silistra. Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad. D. 18-19 (14 ?) 4 mm. W. 8.80 g. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. St. Demetrios sanding, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield set on the ground. Vertical inscription: Θ-Δ-Η || Μ-ΙΤ-Ρ'.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΡΙΓΟΡΙ' | ΠΡΙΣΤΡΑ | ΤΙΓΟΤΟΜ' | ΡΡΟΚΑΤ' | ΚΑΛ'
+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΓΡΙΓΟ... | ΠΡΙΣΤΡΑ | ΤΙΓΟΤΟ... | ΡΡΟΚΑΤ' | ...'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Γριγορί(ω) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) στρατιγο το
Μ(α)βροκατ(α)καλ(ών)

1528. Γρηγόριος Ν., πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Documented on 30th May 2003. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-22 (23) 4 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. As it seems it was holed with a nail at four places on the obverse. All that renders the reading uncertain.

Unpublished.

Obv. Heavily damaged surface. Traces of a cruciform invocative monogram and CΩ.

Rev. Inscription of five or six lines:

+ | ΓΟΡ | ΣΠΑΘΑΡΙΩ | ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓ. | ... ΑΚΡΟΝΡ | ... Τ ...
[+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ [δούλω Γρη]γορ[ίο β'(πρωτο)]σπαθαρίω)
(καὶ) στρατ(ηγῶ)

1529. Δημήτριος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-30 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ' | ΤΩCΩ.. | ΔΗΜΗΤ'Α' | ΣΠΑΘΑΡ'Σ | ΣΤΡΑΤΙ | -Γ-
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)[θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ [δού(λω)] Δημητ(ρίω) (πρωτο)σπαθαρ(ίω) (καὶ)
στρατιγ(ῶ)

1530-1531. Δημήτριος Κατακαλὼν πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s)

1530. RHM- Ruse. Found in the course of excavations of Iatrus near the village of Krivina. D. 21.5-22 (20) 3 mm. A good imprint but weak on one side. The bulla is chipped at one side.

Ed. Iatrus-Krivina, I, no 508; Jordanov, Sceaux, 92-93; Jordanov, F. Names, no.300.

1531. Private collection (J. Biulbiulev from Harmanli). Originates from Silistra. It was offered for purchase at the Regional Historical Museum in Stara Zagora where it was documented. D. 27.5-28.5 (20) 3 mm. Unsuccessful imprint. The blank was folded at the striking.

Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no.301.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ-Δ-Η ||

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a)+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΗΜΗΤΡ' | ΠΡΙΣΤΡΑ | ΗΓΟΤΩ | ΚΑΤΑΚ'
b)+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΔΗΜΗΤΡ' | ΠΡΙΣΤΡΑ | ΗΓΟΤΩ | ΑΤΑΚ' |
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Δημητρ(ίω) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) στρ(α)[τ]ηγ(ο) τῷ
Κατακ(αλών)

1532. Εὐστάθιος Ἀλακσεύς σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XIc.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 23096. Originates from Silistra. D. 33-35 (over 31) 3 mm. Once a good imprint. The superb engraving of archangel Michael is striking. In a poor state of preservation now, covered with a lead crust which makes reading difficult.

Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 19.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion was found in Buotia, see M. Galane-Krikou in Arch. Delt. 48 (1993) B1 – Chronika (Athen 1998) 85, Abb. 4.

Obv. Bust of archangel Michael facing, with a massive beardless face and hair of heavy curls. He wears divitision, decorated with maniakion; holds (r. hand) a scepter on shoulder and a globus surmounted with a cross (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

..... | | ΤΑΘΕΙΩ | ΣΠΑΘΚΑΝΔΔ | ΣΤΡΑΤ.. | ΤΑΛΑΚ. | VCEA
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλω) Εὐσ]ταθείω σπαθ(αρο)κανδ(ι)δ(άτω)
(καὶ) στρατ(ηγῶ)] τ(ῷ) Ἀλακ[α]σέα

1533. Θεόδωρος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17950. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 17-26 (24?) 3 mm.

Half of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 355.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

..... || Δ-ΩΡ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕ.. | ΤΩC.... | ΘΕΟ.... | Α'CΠ.... | SCT.... | - ... -
+ Κ(ύρι)ε [β(ο)]θ(ει)] τῷ σ[ῷ δού(λω)] Θεο[δώρω] (πρωτο)σπ[αθαρ(ίω)] (καὶ)
στ[ρατιγῶ]

1534. Θεόδωρος σπαθαροκανδιᾶτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nesebar, no. 2151. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialo). D. 22-28 (22.) 4 mm. W. 18.82 g. Well-centered and complete imprint in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.
No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || K-O-Λ' : ['Ο ἄγιος Νι] κόλ(αος). Along the circumference, circular inscription starting at left: + . . ROHΘ' ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- • -|+ ΘΕΟ | ΔΩΡ'CΠΑ | Θ'KANΔΔ'S | CTPAT | -Γ-
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Θεοδώρ(ω) σπαθ(αρο)κανδ(ι)δ(άτω) (καὶ)
στρατ(η)γ(ῶ)

1535. Θεόδωρος Κασνίτζης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.129. Found by the guard in the ruins of Preslav in 1921. D. 22-23 (20?) 3 mm. W. 10.07 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 464; Jordanov, Family Names, no.291.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | .ΕΟ.. | Ρ'Α'CΠΑΘΑ | Ρ'SCTPA | ΤΙΓ'ΤΚ | - Ν'Ζ -
[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Θ]εο[δῶ]ρ(ω) (πρωτο)σπαθαρ(ίω) (καὶ) στρατιγ(ῶ) τ(ῶ)
Κ(ασ)ν(ί)τζ(η)

In his review, W. Seibt associates the patronym K|-N'Z with the Bulgarian name Kancho [K(α)ν(τ)ζ(ῆς) K(α)ν(τ)ζ(ους)] (see *BZ*, 89, S. 361). Now he assumes that X|-N'Z record the name of a strategia, X(α)ν(τ)ζ(ιτ), located to the south of Melitene (*BZ*, 101, S. 821).

I had the opportunity to work with the original and the letters documented above are clearly visible. For the time being, most acceptable to me seems that they recorded the family name Κασνίτζη, since correspondence from other representatives of this family was also received in Preslav.

1536-1538. Θεόδωρος Κασσητερᾶς πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

1536. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 16967. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23.5- 26(24?) 3 mm, W. 8.40 g. Well-preserved but incomplete imprint. Some parts of the die are out of the blank and others, because of disrepair of the boulloterion, did not print.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 356; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 295.

1537. Archaeological Museum, Nessebar, no. 925. Find-spot: stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo (?). It was presented by Dr. Tzanko Petrov Stoyanov, a physician and collector in Nessebar. D. 31-33 (28) 3 mm. W. 12. 22 g. Large flat blank with unprinted fields.
Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 24. ; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 296.

1538. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to the collection of RHM-Shumen in December 2007). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 28-28 (28?) 2 mm. W. 8.68 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of Theodore, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-... || Δ-Ω-P' : 'Ο ἄγιος [Θεό]δ[ωρ(ος)]

Rev. Inscription of four lines. Border of dots.

a) . KER'Θ' | . ΕΟΔ'ΡΟΑ' | 'SCTP' | . . TOKAC | . . TE.. |
b) + KER'Θ' | ΕΕΟΔ'ΡΟΑ' | .ΠΑΘ'. CT.' | .Γ'TOKA. | .HTE.. | -.-
c) + | . . Δ'ΡΟΑ' | . . . Θ'SCT.' | .Γ'TOKA. | .HTE.. | -.-
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Θεοδ(ώ)ρο (πρωτο) [σ]παθ(αρίω) [(καὶ)] στ[ρ(ατ)[η]γ(ῶ)]
το Κ[σ]σ[η]τε[ρᾶ]

1539-1544. Θεοδῶρητος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

1539. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 20.5-22 (21)3 mm.
Once a good imprint, now the obverse is corroded.
Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, I, № 17.

540. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22200. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-27 (21) 2 mm. The upper part of the bulla is corroded.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 357.

1541. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 324. Find-spot: Pliska. Found in Pliska between the two floor layers in the throne room of the Kroum Place, square 1056, building no.1, on 6th August 1980. D. 21-21 (21) 3.5 mm. Good imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Плиска, № 18.

1542. RHM-Shumen, no. 14715. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska or Preslav. D. 22-23 (20) 3 mm. W. 5.68 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 333.

1543. RHM-Shumen, no. 14750. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Isperih. D. 21-23 (20) 4 mm. W. 9.16 g. Complete specimen in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 334.

1544. Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna, no. 391). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 27-22 mm. W. 9 g. Well-centered imprint. Corroded surface.
Unpublished.
The six specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Archangel (Michael ?) holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || N-A-Γ. Along border of dots, traces of a circular inscription: A T I Γ

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots.

- ο - | ΘΕΩ | ΔΟΡΗΤ' | Α'CΠΑΘΑΡ' | SCTPA | ΤΗΓΟ | - ο -
+ Θεωδορήτ(ω) (πρωτο)σπαθαρ(ίω) (καὶ) στρατηγ(ο)

It is an interesting ascertainment that Theodoritos' correspondence was received in the

three major centers of northeastern Bulgaria. As it seems he took active part in their life.

1545. Ἰωάννης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (IX c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 26-26 mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.12); in the quarters: ΤΩ-ΘΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΙΩΑΝ.. | Β'Α'ΣΠΑΘΑ | ΙΩΣCTP | ΑΤΙΓΩ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰωάν[νῃ] β'(πρωτο)σπαθα[ρ]ίῳ (καὶ)
στρατιγῷ

1546. Ἰωάννης Μαλέσης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1030s-1040s)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17575. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-29 (23) 4 mm. W. 16.20 g. Unsuccessful imprint. There is displacement between the obv. and rev. due to looseness of the boulloterion, but nevertheless they are within the frame of the blank. One third of the rev. die is not printed and, in addition, the surface of the bulla is corroded by oxide seats. The restoration of the text is based on the parallel cited below.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 359; Jordanov, F. Names, no.413.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion was found in the village of Derwent on the bank of the Danube, see Barnea, Deux gouverneurs, 245-247.

Obv. Busts of two military saints facing. St. Theodore (at l.) holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). No details visible. No inscriptions containing their names visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΙΩ | ...PHK | ...ATH | ...OM. | ..C I

+ Ἰω(άννης) [πατ]ρκ(ιος) [(καὶ)] στρ[ατ]η[γός] ὁ Μ[αλέ]σι(ς)

1547. Ἰωάννης Νεστόγγος πρόεδρος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1070s – 1080s)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14209. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. His information is that it was found in Silistra. D.14.8-17 (over 16.6) 2.1 mm. W. 3.71 g. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller in diameter than the dies.

Ed. Йорданов, Silistra, IV, № 6; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 519.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the Fogg A. M. Collection, no. 723 (see Cheynet, Nestogoi, no. 3).

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore of Sphorakios. He holds a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). From the inscription on his either side remains:||.- O-СΦ .-.ΚΙ8 : ['Ο ἄ(γιος) Θεόδωρ(ος) τ]ο Σφ[ω(ρ)α]κίου.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | . Ω ΠΡΟΕΔ. | .CTPATH.. | ΤΩΝΕCΤΟ Γ | - ΓΩ -

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἰω(άννη) προέδ[ρ(ω)] (καὶ)] στρατ[η]γ[ῶ] τῷ Νεστόγγῳ

1548. Κωνσταντῖνος πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (end of the XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.13. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-20 (20?) 2.5 mm. W.5.16 g. Incomplete imprint but in a superb state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands raised before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘV: Μή(τη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. Ω . . ΔΕ | .ΠΟΙΝ'ΤΟ | Θ8ΚΩΝ'Π . . | Κ'ΤΡΑΤΗ | -Γ'-

[Σ]ώ[ζε] Δέ[σ]ποιν(α) το[ῦ] Θ(ε)οῦ Κων(σταντίνω) π(ατ)[ρι(κίω)] κ(αὶ)
στρατ[η]γ(ῶ)

1549.Κωνσταντῖνος Δηογένης πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (mid-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15178. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no.174. Find-spot: Plovdiv region. D. 22-24 (22) 4 mm. W. 6.76 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Many of the letters are blurred and overstruck. The restoration of the text and reading is on the basis of cited parallels, of course, with much imagination. The obverse is open along the channel and effaced.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 336.

Parallels: In the photo archive in Vienna, I examined an illustration of a specimen from the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul that could be struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of unknown military saint.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΩ . | CTANT. . | ΠΡΠ ΚΗΟ . | CTPAT . | . ΔΗΟΓ. | NH specimen from Istanbul

. . . N | . TANT. . | ΠΡΠ | . . PATΓ | . ΔΗΟ. | . .

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Κω]ν[σ]ταντ[ίν(ω)] π(ατ)ρι[κί]ο (καὶ) στ[ρατ]η[γ(ῶ)] τῷ
Δηογένῃ]

In the XIth c., to which the seal is generally dated, there are at least two representatives of the family Diogenes by this name. The one is the father of the future Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes, and the other is his son. For them, see Guiland, Recherches, I, 449; EO, 31, 1932,331; EO, 37, 1934, 414-419; DOS, 1, no.34.1. With the uncertainty in the reading of the text of the seal any commentary regarding the identification will be far-fetched.

1550-1551. Κωνσταντῖνος Κασιανός πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1030s-1050s)

1550. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18555. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 29-32 (26) 4 mm, W. 15.85 g. A well-preserved specimen with some damages on the relief. The boulloterion was loose, as a result there is 8-9 mm dislocation between obv. and rev.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 360; Jordanov, F. Names, no.289

1551. Private collection. It has probably "flowed out" from the Strategia of Preslav. Dimensions: 29-30 mm.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.290.
Both specimens come from the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. St. Eustathios nimbate, standing facing; wears beard and military dress; r. holds spear;
l. rests on shield. Vertical inscription: Θ-Ε-V-C || T-A-Θ

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΚΩΝΑ'CΠΑ | ΘΑΡ'VΠΑΤ' | SCTPAT'Γ' | ΤΟΝΚΑC | ΙΝΟΝ
+Κ(ύρι)ε βο(οή)θ(ει) Κων(σταντίνω) (πρωτο)σπαθα(ρίω) ὑπάτ(ω) (καὶ)
στρατ(η)γ(ῶ) τὸν Κασι(α)νὸν

1551A. Κωνσταντῖνος Ξαντᾶς πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγός (1050s)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-21 mm. Good imprint and bulla in a good state of preservation.
Unpublished.
Parallels: **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 715, no. 1; **Birch**, no. 17748; *Unpublished* from DO. 55. 1. 3400.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

-ο- | +ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8ΛΩ | ΚΩΝ | -ο-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ο ΠΡΙ ο | SCTPA | ΤΙΓΩΤΩ | ΞΑΝΤΑ | -ο-
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Κων(σταντίνω) π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) στρατιγῷ
τῷ Ξαντᾶ

1552. Κωνσταντῖνος Ὠπός πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγός (1030s-1040s)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, field no. 22970. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-25 (18) 2.5 mm. W.
11.22 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint. The final letters of almost all lines did not print.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 361; **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no. 767.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡΟ | .Θ'ΤΩCΩ | .8Λ'ΚΩ. | CTAN.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

-··- | Α'CΠΑΘ' | SCTPAT | .WTΩO | -ΠΩ -
+Κ(ύρι)ε βο[ή]θ(ει) τῷ σῷ [δ]ού(λῳ) Κω[v]σταν[τ(ίνω)] (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω)
(καὶ) στρατ[ηγ]ῷ τῷ Ὀπῷ

1553. Κωνσταντῖνος ὕπατος καὶ στρατηγός (mid of the XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna, but it was not his possession as far as could remember). Find-spot:
uncertain. D. 20-20 mm. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. I have only the transcript but
I am not sure whether it is correct so all that renders the reading uncertain.
Unpublished.

Obv. Representation of the Virgin.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.. ΕΡ'Θ' | ΚΩΝVΠΑ | SCTPATI | .ΤΩCΩ .. | -Κ.ΤΗ -
[+Θ(εοτό)κ]ε βο(οή)θ(ει) Κων(σταντίνω) [ύ]πάτ(ω) καὶ στρατη γ(ῶ) τῷ σῷ
[οἰ]κ[έ]τη

1554. Κωνσταντῖνος ὕπατος καὶ στρατηγός (IX c.)

Private collection. The illustration and information about it was sent to me by Evgeni Paunov. Found by
treasure-hunters on the land of the village of Leskovets at 20 km from the Krakra fortress, probably in
the medieval settlement located there, in the winter of 2003. D. 23-25 mm. Complete imprint in a good
state of preservation.
Unpublished.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5) in the quarters .Ω-CΩ || .8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ ΚΩΝ . | ΤΑΝΤΙΝΩ | .Π'SCTP
+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθη [τ]ῷ σῷ [δ]ούλῳ Κωνσταντίνω ὑπ(άτῳ) (καὶ) στρ(ατηγῶ)

1555. Λέων πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγός (XI c.)

Unknown place of preservation. Find-spot: uncertain. D.16-16 (over 16) 2 mm.
Ed. **Мущмов**, *Печати*, № 36.
No parallels known

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ in l. arm. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..ΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤ. | .CΠΑΘΑΡ' | .CTPATI | ..
[+Θ(εοτό)κ]ε βο(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντ[ι (πρωτο)]σπαθα(ρίω) [(καὶ)] στρατι[γῶ]

1556. Λέων Γουδέλης πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ στρατηγός (mid-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17091. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-21 (20 ?) 2.8 mm,
W. 4.55 g. A well-preserved specimen. Good-quality imprint, but nevertheless parts of the dies remained
out of the blank.
Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 362; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 149.
No exact parallels.

Obv. Bust St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) decorated at top with five large pearls and
a globus (l. hand) surmounted with a cross. On either side the sigla: M-I || X-A.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

-ο- | +ΛΕΟΝ | Α'CΠΑΘΑΡ' | SCTPATI | Γ'ΟΓ8ΔΕ | .HC | -ο-
+Λέον (πρωτο)σπαθάρ(ιος) (καὶ) στρατηγ(ός) ὁ Γουδέ[λ]ης

1557-1558. Λέων Κρατερὸς σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ στρατηγός (XI c.)

1557. Private collection (P. Papahagi from Romania). Find-spot: Silistra, during the Romanian occupation. D. 28-29 mm. Half of what was once a whole bulla.
Ed. Banescu, Silistrie, 329-330; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 387.

1558. RHM-Silistra. Found in the course of regular archaeological excavations in Silistra on 10th August 1989, field no. 17, at a depth of 15.45 m, in square 75, connected with dwelling no. 7. D. 23-24 (over 23) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. The first line containing the homonym is out of the blank. Its surface is poorly preserved and some letters are missing.
Ed. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 387.
Both specimens were struck with the same pair of dies.
Parallels: Another specimen from the same boulloterion is preserved in the Zacos collection, III, no. 1480, see *Cheyne*, *Les Krateroi*, p. 231, fig. 2. Interesting is that this imprint is also incomplete and almost identical with no. 2 from Silistra.

Obv. Bust of St. George facing, holding spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: -Γ-Ε||-Ρ-Γ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- a) ...NT. | ... ΘΑ. | ... ΔΔ'S. | ... ΙΓ. | ...PAT | ...
b) ... | ...ΠΑΘΑ. | ΚΑΝΔΔ'S. | ...ΤΙΓΟ | ...PAT | - ΕΡ'
[+Λέο]ντ[ι σ]παθα[ρ(ο)κανδ(ι)δ(άτω) (καὶ) [στρα]τιγο [τῷ Κ]ρατερ(ῳ)]

1559. Λέων Πάρδος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 146 (from the former collection of Dr. V. Haralanov from Shumen). Find-spot: presumably northeastern Bulgaria or Silistra. D. 23.5-24 (23) 4.5 mm. W.13.33 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 559.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown military saint.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- +ΛΕ.. | Α'СП.. | SCTP.T | ΟΠΑΡ' | - ο -
+ Λέ[ον] (πρωτο)σπ[αθ(άριος)] (καὶ) στρα[τ(ηγὸς) ὁ Πάρ(δος)]

1560-1565. Λέων Πηγονίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1050s-1060s)

1560. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24580. D. 18-27 (18) 3 mm. W. 6.45 g. The interesting thing about this bulla is that the seal was struck not on a lead blank but on a lead plate folded in two, pressed at least three times at different directions in the boulloterion.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 369; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 575.

1561. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24590. D. 17-17 (?) 3.6 mm. W. 4.12 g. Incomplete but well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 370; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 576.

1562. Private collection (N. Georgiev, middleman from Shumen), offered and purchased for the collection of the National Historical Museum, Sofia. D. 15.5-16.5(?) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies and also due to slipping of the boulloterion.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 371; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 577.

1563. Private collection. It has "flown out" from the excavations in Preslav presumably through the same

H. Georgiev. D. 17-19 mm. Incomplete imprint due to off-centering and slipping of the blank in the boulloterion.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 578.

1564. Private collection. It has "flown out" from the excavations in Preslav presumably also through N. Georgiev. D. 19-20 mm. Good imprint and a bulla in a good state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 579.

1565. Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna) Find-spot: Preslav ? D. 15-17 mm. W. 4.00 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 579a.
The six specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-Δ-Η-Μ || Τ-Ρ-Ι-Ο-С. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

- a) ... R'... Ε... ΑΘΑΡΙΩ
b) ... R'Θ'ΛΕΟΝΤΙ...
c) ... ΡΙΩ
d) ..ΕΡ'Θ'ΛΕΟΝΤΙΑ'СΠ...
e) ..ΕΡ'Θ'ΛΕΟΝΤΙΑ'СΠΑΘ...

Rev. Bust of the Virgin, holding a medallion of Christ before her chest. Sigla \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$. Circular inscription along a border of dots:

- a) . СΤΡΑΤΗΓΩ ΙΤΙ
b) ΩΤΟΠΗΙ
c) ΤΗΓΩ
d) ΤΗΓΩΤΟΠΙ
e) SCTPATHΓΩΤΟΠΗΓ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντι (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) στρατηγῷ το Πηγ[ον]ίτι]

1566-1567. Λέων Πιλένης βεστάρχης καὶ στρατηγὸς (third quarter, XI c.)

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion. Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15-17 and 15-16 mm. Well-executed and well-preserved imprints.
Ed. Jordanov, Family Names, no. 586-587.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-Γ-Ε ||...

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

- +ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΡΕСТΑΡХ' | SCTPAT'Г' | ΤΟΠΙΛΕΝ | ΝΙ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντι βεστάρχ(η) (καὶ) στρατ(η)γ(ῳ) το Πιλεννί(ω)

1568. Μαρνανὸς πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 26299. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23.5-25 (22 ?) 2.5 mm, W. 6.79 g. Incomplete imprint. The dies printed only along the channel swelling.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 479.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown bishop saint (St. Nicholas) holding a book (l. hand). Traces of a circular inscription: TOCOΔOV . . .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΜΑΡΙ . | . ΟCΑ'CΠΑ . . | . . CΚΕCΤ . . | . . ΓΟCΩ . . | . . ΤΡΙ .
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει] το σο δού[λw] Μαρι[αν]ος (πρωτο)σπα[θάρ]ιος κὲ
στ[ρατη]γὸς

Even at this stage the overall reading of the text is impossible. The question arises whether the owner of the seal is not identical to the owner of Μαριανὸς πρωτοσπαθάριος, see Йорданов, Преслав, № 55.

1569. Μιχαήλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). D. 22-23 (16) 2.5 mm. Once a good imprint, but now in a poor state of preservation. Cracked in the center. Some of the letters are obliterated.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο || Δ-Ω-Ρ-Ο'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ Μ.ΧΑ | ΗΛ.Α'CΠ | Α...SC | ...Τ
+ Μ[ι]χαήλ [β'] (πρωτο)σπα[θάρ]ιος] (καὶ) στ[ρα]τ[η]γὸς

1570. Μιχαήλ Στυπειώτης β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17647. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (21) 2.5 mm. W. 5.4 g. Low-quality imprint. Broken along the channel (*obv.*), which has destroyed the depiction of St. Nicholas.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 363; Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 681.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). On either side, vertical inscription: || -Λ-Α-Ο'. Remains of circular inscription: ...ΙΚΟ..... Δ8....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ooo |+ .ΙΧΑ | ΛΡ'Α'CΠ | ΑΘ'SCTP. | .ΙΓ'T8.. | VΠΕ.. | ooo
[+ 'Αγ(ι)ε Ν]ικό[λα]ε β(οή)θει τῷ σῷ δού[λw] Μ[ι]χαήλ β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίw)
(καὶ) στ[ρα]τ[η]γ(ῷ) τοῦ [Στ]υπε[ι]ώτ(η)]

1571. Μιχαήλ Ταρχανειώτης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (second half of the XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15234. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 21-23 (23) 2.5-3 mm. W. 5.98 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 337.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and globus surmounted by cross.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | . . CΩ . . | . . ΑΗΛΑ' | . . ΑΘΑΡΗ' | . . . ΤΙΓ'T' | . . . ΧΑΝ | - .ΟΤ'
[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ] σῷ [δού(λw) Μιχ]αήλ (πρωτο)[σπ]αθαρή(w) [(καὶ)
στρα]τιγ(ῷ) τ(ῷ) [Ταρ]χαν[ι]ώτ(η)]

For the rest of the seals and career of Michael Tarchaneiotes, see Jordanov, *Family Names*, nos. 704-705. The presented seal informs of a new unknown stage in his career, when he was only protospatharios.

1572-1573. Μιχαήλ Ταρχανειώτης πατρίκιος , πρωτοανθύπατος καὶ στρατηγὸς (1080s-1090s)

1572. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 2211. According to T. Totev, it was discovered in the course of excavations of the Zabuite "Beneath the monastery" in 1979. D. 21-21.5 (19) 5 mm. Very good imprint and a bulla in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. Totev, T. Un sceau inedit de Michel Tarchaneiotes.- *Etudes Balkaniques*, 25,4, 1989, 110-112;

Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 704.

1573. RHM-Burgas. Found in the course of excavations in the medieval town of Sozopol in 2002. Presented to me for documentation by the research associate Tsonja Drazheva, director of the Regional Historical Museum, Burgas. D. 22-23(20) 3.5 mm. As the above specimen. Well-centered and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, *F. Names*, no. 705.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Ebersolt, Constantinople, no 472; Шандровская, Болгарии, 147-148; Unpublished in DO 58. 106. 5365.

The specimens in DO. 55. 1. 3345; 55. 1. 3346; and Zacos, III, are from a different boulloterion, see Leontiades, no. 5.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ-Δ-Η || Μ-Ι-ΤΡ'. Circular inscription along border of dots:

+ ΑΓΙΕΔΗΜΙΤΡΙΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΜΟΙ ("Αγιε Δημίτριε βοήθει μοι)

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΜΙΧΑΗΛΠΡ | Α'ΑΝΘVΠΑΤ' | CΤΡΑΤΗΓ' | ΤΩΤΑΡΧΑ | ΝΙΩΤ'

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λw) Μιχαήλ π(ατ)ρικήw (πρωτο)ανθυπάτ(w)
(καὶ) στρατηγ(ῷ) τῷ Ταρχανειώτ(η)]

1574-1575. Μιχαήλ β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς(X-XI c.)

1574. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17561. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-25 (20) 2 mm, W. 5.72 g. Unsuccessful imprint. The bulla was folded in two which renders the identification of the letters more difficult.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 364.

1575. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18305. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-26 (20)

3 mm, W. 9.75 g. Unsuccessful imprint. The dies printed only along the channel swelling; subsequently damaged.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 365.

The both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Centaur walking r.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

a) .MIXA | ..R'A'CP | ...CTPA | ..Γ'.Λ | .TIA

b) .MI .A | ... A'C . | ...CT... | ..Γ'... |

[+]Μιχα[ήλ] β'(πρωτο)σπ[αθ(άριος) (καὶ)] στρα[τηγ(ὸς)]

Now, as before, the deciphering of the last two lines recording the patronym or toponym is problematic. In his review, W. Seibt (see BZ, 89, S. 136) suggests the following restoration ΠΛΑ | ΤΙΑ, which I cannot see even at the best of my desire. It applies mostly to the first letter Π.

1576-1578. Νικήτας Κασνίτζης πρωτοσπαθάριος ἐπὶ τοῦ χρυσοτρικλίνου καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

1576. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18511. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 26-27 (25) 3 mm, W. 6.00 g. Once a good imprint, whose circumference was shaped with a sharp object. The bulla was subsequently perforated in two places.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 366; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 292.

1577. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22117. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 26.5-27.5 (25) 5 mm, W. 22.85 g. Very interesting imprint. Traces of some kind of material (cloth), which was between the die and the blank, are visible on the obverse.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 367; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 293.

1578. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20705. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 27.5-31 (25) 4.2 mm, W. 19.60 g. Incomplete imprint: opposite parts of the dies did not print.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 368; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 294.

The three specimens are struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: An unpublished specimen struck in the same boulloterion as ours is preserved in the collection Fogg A. M. no.1229.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore Tyron holding a spear on (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-Θ- Ε-Ο' || Ο-Τ'-Ρ': Ο ἄ(γιος) Θεό(δωρος) ὁ Τ(ή)ρ(ων).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΝΙΚΗΤΑ | Α'СПΑΘ'ΕΠΙ | Τ8ΧΡΚΛ'8 | СΤΡΑΤ'Γ'Τ' | ΚΑCΝΗ | ΤΞ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοή(θει) Νικήτα (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) ἐπὶ τοῦ χρ(υσο)τρικλ(ίνου)
(καὶ) στρατ(η)γ(ῶ) τ(ῶ) Κασνήτζ(η)

1579. Νικήτας / Νικηφόρος Ἰασίτης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 21656. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (23 ?) 2.5 mm, W. 8.05 g. Incomplete imprint, since the blank was smaller in diameter than the dies, which renders the reading of the text difficult.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 372; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 241.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: .-.-H || M-TP-H'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΙΚΗ. | Α'СПΑΘ'. | СΤΡΑΤΙΓ' | ΟΗΑCΙ | -ΤΙ-

[N]ική[τ(ας)] / [N]ική[φ(όρος)] (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) [(καὶ)] στρατιγ(ὸς) ὁ Ἰασίτις)

1580. Νικηφόρος Φιλοκάλης στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 14188. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (over 23) 3 mm, 7.85 g. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller in diameter than the dies. Bulla in a poor state of preservation. The surface is punctured with corrosion.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 373. Jordanov, F. Names, no. 736

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her chest. Sigla: MP || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..ΕR. | .Ι.ΙΦ.. | ..ΤΡΑ.. | Γ'ΤΟΦVΛ. | ΚΑΛΗ

[Θ(εοτό)κ]ε βοή(θει) Ν[ι]κ[ι]φ[ό]ρ[ω] σ[τ]ρα[τ]η[γ(ῶ)] το Φυλ[ο]κάλη

1581. Νικόλαος Ν., β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 3926. Find-spot: on the land of the village of Voynikovo. D. 27-30 mm. Incomplete imprint. The bulla was subsequently holed.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising up to the second arms. Traces of a circular inscription: + ..ROH...ΤΩCΩ.....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΝΙΚ. | ΛΑΩΡ'Α' | СПΑΘ'8CΤ | ΡΑΤ'Γ'Τ. | .Α....

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή(θει) τῶ σῶ [δούλω] Νικ[ο]λάω β'(πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) στρατ(η)γ(ῶ) τ[ῶ]

1582. Νικόλαος (?) πατρίκιος καὶ στρατηγὸς (50s-60s of the XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22903. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (over 21) 4 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. Covered with thick layer of oxides. Chipped along the circumference.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 484.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of unknown bishop saint (St. Nicholas) blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ N.... | ΠΠΙΣCT. | THΓΩ . . | . ΛAN.

+N[ικολ[(άω)] π(ατ)ρι(κίω) (καὶ) στ[(ρ(α)]τηγῶ [τῶ 'Α]λαν[ῶ]

The available, though uncertain, letters .ΛAN. suggest that it possibly applies to the family Alanos or Balneas. On them, see nos. 1524-1525; 1445-1447 here.

1583. Νικόλαος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14960. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 22-24 (21) 3 mm. W. 6.46 g. Well-preserved, but incomplete imprint. Only fragments of the die printed.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 338.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist facing, holding a long cross in l. hand. Vertical inscription:

Θ-ΙΩ-ο || Π-.. Remains from the circular inscription containing the invocation:
.ΤΩ Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ÷ - | . ΝΙΚΟΔ | Α'CΠΑΘ | ΔΡ'Σ.Τ | ΡΑ. . Γ'

+K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῶ [σῶ δού]λ(ω) Νικολ(άω) [β'] (πρωτο)σπαθαρί(ω)

(καὶ) [σ]τρα[τι]γ(ῶ)

1584. Ῥωμανὸς πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

Private collection (from Pernik). Find-spot: the land of the village of Kazachevo, Lovech region. D. 23-23 (23) 5 mm. W. 10.37 g. Incomplete imprint. Some letters are obliterated, which renders the reading of the homonym problematic.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of Virgin holding medallion of Christ before her. No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' ΡΩΜΑΝΟ | Α'CΠΑΘΑΡΙ' | SCTPAT | - Γ -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Ῥωμανο (πρωτο)σπαθαρί(ω) (καὶ) στρατ(η)γ(ῶ)

1585. Ῥωμανὸς N., πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Rzgrad). Documented on 5th November 2002. D. 28-30 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. Swollen with corrosion. Cut or chipped at the lower side.

Unpublished.

Obv. Completely obliterated surface.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | ΡΩΜΑΝΟ | Α'CΠΑΘ'Σ | CTPAT'TO | ΠΡ . . ΛΔ

+ [Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει)] Ῥωμανο (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) στρατ(ηγῶ) το

1586. Στέφανος στρατηγὸς (last quarter of the X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 47. Discovered in the course of regular archaeological excavations in Pliska, the Palace center, square 313, in the eastern half of the citadel, at a depth of 0.20 m. D. 24-24 (22) 4.1 mm. Good but incomplete imprint. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Димитров, Я.** . Новооткрит византийски моливдовул от Плиска.- *Трудове на катедрите по история и богословие към ШУ*, 1, 1997, 102-107).

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Panteleimon blessing (r. hand) and holding an uncertain object (l. hand).

Vertical inscription in two columns: O-A-ΓΙ-O || Π-A-NTЄ-Λ-Є-M'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | CTEΦAN' | CTPAT | -HΓ'-

+K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῶ σῶ δ(ούλω) Στεφάν(ω) στρατηγ(ῶ)

Six bullae of Στέφανος β' πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς τοῦ Νέος Στρυμόνος (971-976), who has the same patron, were discovered in the Strategia of Preslav (see **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 53.1). The coincidence of names, position and iconographic subject raises the question whether it does not apply to one and the same person. Probably this seal reflects a later or earlier stage in the career of Stephanos, strategos of New Strymon.

1587-1589. Ταυρίνος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (X-XI c.)

1587. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17549. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-25 (21 ?) 2 mm. W. 6.22 g. Incomplete imprint, broken into two parts.

Ed. **Йорданов, Преслав**, № 332.

1588. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 19208. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (21 ?) 2 mm. W. 6.18 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов, Преслав**, № 333

1589. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 81. Find-spot: uncertain (Preslav ?). D. 22.5-23.5 (24 ?) 3 mm, W. 5.68 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The letters on the channel and those recording the homonym only printed allowing for an emendation in the reading of the proper name.

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion and have different states of preservation. On their basis is the restoration of the text below.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔΟΝ | ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

TAVP' | ΝΩΑ'CΠΑ | Θ'SCTPAT | ΗΓΩ

+K(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῶ σῶ δούλω Ταυρ(ί)νω (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) στρατηγῶ

On the basis of this third better imprint, W. Seibt suggests the following reading: TAVP' | ΝΩ (see BZ, 89, S. 136), which is acceptable.

1590-1594. Τζυορβανέλης Ἀποχαρπης πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ στρατηγὸς (ca. 1000)

1590. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 16701. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-30 (23) 3 mm. W. 14.20 g. Specimen in a good state of preservation, but the imprint is incomplete.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 374; Jordanov, F.Names, no. 46.

1591. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17209. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-26 (23) 2 mm. W. 4.90 g. The blank was smaller than the size of the dies. Incomplete imprint, corroded with oxides at some places.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 375; Jordanov, F.Names, no. 47.

1592. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 32-33 (23) 4 mm. W. 14.20 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. The lower half is corroded.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 376; Jordanov, F.Names, no. 48.

1593. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 55. Discovered in the course of excavations in Preslav, Stambol Jolou locality, square C2, at a depth of 0.40 m. on 12th August 1982. Poor state of preservation. Diameter: 27-28 mm.
Unpublished.

1594. RHM-Shumen, no. 15251. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 25-26 (24) 3 mm. W. 10.34 g. Well-centered but weak imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 339.
The five specimens were struck with the same die.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore facing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο || - ΩΡ-Ο'
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
- :- | ΤΖΥΡΑ | Ν'Α'ΣΠΑΘ' | .ΣΤΡΑΤ'Γ' | .ΑΠΟΧΑ | ΡΠΙΣ
+ Τζυορβαν(έλης) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) [(καὶ)] στρατ(η)γ(ός) [ό] Ἀποχαρπης

1595-1596. Βάλς or Βαλσάρ..... καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

1595. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20184. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 33.5-33 (30) 5 mm. W. 34.70 g. Well-centered imprint in a poor state of preservation. Holed above the saint's head and probably worn as an icon because of the good image of St. Theodore.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 389.

1596. RHM-Shumen, no. 14730/3. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Preslav ?. D. 27-28 (25) 5 mm. W. 23.20 g. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 340.
The both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (r. hand) and a round shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο-Δ-Ω || Ρ-Ο-С

Rev. Inscription of five lines:
-- ◎ -- | + ΚΕΡΩΗΘΗ | . ΩΣΩΔΟ.ΛΟ | .ΑΛСАР... | ΚΕΣΤΡΑΤΗ | ΓΩ
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθη [τ]ῷ σῷ δο[ύ]λο [Β]αλσάρκὲ στρατηγῷ

Despite the two existing specimens, the problems in the reading remain. The proper name Βάλς or Βαλσάρ and the title ἄρχοντι or χαγάν were assumed in Siebt's review (see BZ, S. 137, no. 489). A new better preserved specimen could either corroborate or rule out this assumption.

1597. Ν., Γοτανιτζης . . . καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14691. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-20 (?) 4 mm. W. 9.20 g. Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller for the size of the dies, although the image of St. Michael is almost complete. The only certain thing in the reading is the office strategos and the probable family name Γοτανιτζης.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 341.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus surmounted by cross (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Μ-Ι || -Η-Α

Rev. Inscription of four lines:
..... | . ΤΡΑΤ. | . ΟΓΟΤΑ | ΝΙΤΖΙ
..... σ]τρατ[ηγ(ῶ) τ]ο Γοτανίτζι

1598-1600. Λέων or Θεόδωρος Ν., σπαθαροκανδιᾶτος καὶ στρατηγὸς (XI c.)

1598. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, field no. 20160. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav, South sector, square 1, on 17th August 1982. D. 21-22 (over 22) 2 mm. W. 5.50 g. Low-quality imprint. Corroded.
Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 471

1599. Archaeological Museum, Madara. Find-spot: the region. Purchased along with coins. D. 22-22 mm. Incomplete imprint.
Unpublished.

1600. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Find-spot: the region of Pliska? D. 15-15 mm. Fragment, one third of what was once a good imprint.
Unpublished.
The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion. Despite the existence of three bullae the family name cannot be deciphered with any certitude. Various combinations are possible.

Obv. Bust of unknown military saint (St. Theodore ?) holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). No inscription visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:
1598. . ΕΩ. | . . ΑΘΑΡ. | . . . Δ'ΣCTP. | . . ΟΑ . . . | .. Α . .
1599. . ΕΩ. | . ΠΑΘΑΡ. | . . ΝΔ'СCT. | . . Γ'ΟΑΛ .. | .. ΑΝ .
1600. | . ΠΑΘΑ . . | . ΑΝΔ'СCT. | . ΤΓ'ΟΑΛ .. | .. ΑΝΚ.
[Λ]έω[ν σ]παθαρο[οκ]ανδ(ιδᾶτος) (καὶ) στρ[ατ(η)]γ(ός) ό ..

1601. Ν., Μαλέσης πρωτοσπαθάριος-ὑπατος καὶ στρατηγὸς XI c.

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22171. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 21-23 (over 22) 3.7 mm. W. 10.82 g. Poorly-preserved specimen, covered with thick crusts of lead oxide. The blank is rough, not

additionally shaped. The imprint is incomplete. All that renders the reading difficult. The patronym is also uncertain. It could be Μά[λέ]ση, but also Μά[νά]ση. I favour the former possibility, because other seals of the Malesai were also found in the Strategia of Preslav.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 481; Jordanov, F. Names, no. 414.

No parallels known.

Obv. Completely obliterated surface.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

..... | .CΠA ΘY. | .SCTPA. | .ΩMA.. | - CH -

[.....(πρωτο)]σπαθ(αρίω) ὑ[π(ά)τ(ω)] (καὶ) στρα[τ(ηγῶ) τ]ῷ Μά[λέ]ση

3. Κλεισουριάρχης

Until the end of the Xth century, some other military administrative units also existed along with the theme and independent of it. One of them was κλεισούρα headed by κλεισουριάρχης. It included mountain regions, most often gorges, which were fortified against attacks. Κλεισουριάρχης was a close associate of the strategos of the given theme, but appointed by and directly subordinate to the emperor. According to some investigators, sometimes he had one or several tourmarchoi subordinate to him.

Very often the kleissoura grew into a theme which poses the question of the exact office of kleissourarchai without a toponym. It is probably similar to that of katepanos, doukes and strategoi.

Lit. Ahrweiler, Recherches, 81-82; Oikonomides, Listes, p. 342; ODB, 1132.

1602. Καλοκυρὸς Σαρακηνόπουλος πρωτοσπαθᾶριος καὶ κλεισουριάρχης (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.89. Found in Pliska in the course of archaeological excavations under the supervision of Kr. Miyatev during the period 1931-1937. D. 29-30 (21) 2 mm. W. 15.30 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint. Almost all initial and final letters remained out of the blank.

Ed. Герасимов, Плиска № 2; Йорданов, Плиска, № 22; Jordanov, Family Names, no.639.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ÷ - | +ΚΑΛ. | .VP'A'CP. | .SKΛIC. | ΠIAPX' | - ÷ -

Rev. Inscription in four lines:

- ÷ - | +OCA | .AKIN. | ΠOYΛO | - C -

+ Καλ[οκ]υρ(ὸς) (πρωτο)σπ[αθ(άριος)] (καὶ) κλ(ε)ισ[ου]ριάρχ(ης) ὁ
Σα[ρ]ακιν[ό]πουλος

4. Τουρμάρχης

He was a civil and military governor of τοῦρμα, a subdivision of the strategia. One theme usually consisted of about three tourmai. The office developed like that of the strategos. It is an interesting fact that no tourmai are known from the period Xth-XIth centuries, when the so-called little themes appeared. They became obsolete together with the strategias. However, they can occasionally be found in the late XIth c.

As with starategoi, there are two basic groups: with and without a toponym. They may have had similar functions as strategoi in a limited scale, of course. It is an interesting coincidence that bullae of tourmarchai, similarly to those of taxiarchai, are attested exclusively from the region of Silistra.

Lit. Oikonomides, Listes, 341, 343,345; Idem, Evolution, p. 148, n.144; Haldon, Pretorians, 210-212; ODB, 2100.

1603. Ἰωσήφ Ν., τουρμάρχης (XI c.)

RHM-Silistra. Discovered in the course of archaeological excavations in the town in the summer of 1998. It was at my disposal for only a short time, for which reason I do not have its complete documentation.

Complete but indistinct imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding medallion of Christ before her. Sigla : M-P || ΘY.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΗOC.ΦΤ'Ρ' | ΜΑΡΧΗC | ΤΟΡΥΜ | ΚΑΤ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Ἰ(ω)σ[ή]φ τουρμάρχης τοῦ Ρυμκατ

1604. Κωνσταντῖνος τουρμάρχης καὶ κουμμερκιάριος.... (X c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 159. Formerly in the collection of Dr. V. Haralanov from Shumen. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 21-23 (20) 3.1 mm. W. 9.71 g. Incomplete imprint. The last two lines on the reverse recording the patronym or toponym are uncertain.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding cross scepter (r. hand) and globus cruciger (l. hand). On either side above the wings, a six-ray star, and between the wings and his body, sigla: M-I || X-A.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- * - | + ΚΩΝ | CTANT'T8P | ΜΑΡΧ'SK8 | ..PKI'Δ | * ...X *

+ Κωνσταντ(ῖνος) τουρμάρχ(ης) (καὶ) κου[με]ρκι(άριος) Δυραχίου ?

It could be assumed with some certainty that Constantine was tourmarches and kommerkiarios – an unusual combination of offices. The lack of a clear toponym however renders it impossible to comment on the exact place where he exerted the powers given him by the central government.

1605. Λέων Ν., σπαθαροκανδιδᾶτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19.5-22 (20) 3.5 mm. Once a good imprint.

Now a fragment missing in the upper half.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Panteleimon facing, blessing (r. hand) and holding indeterminate object (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-ΠΑ-N || ...-ΛΕ-M'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. ΛΕΟΝ | C. . ΑΘΚΑΝ | ΔΔ'STOP | ΜΑΡΧ'Ο | ΦΛΓ
+ Λέον σ[πα]θ(αρο)κανδ(ι)δ(ᾱ)τος (καὶ) τορμάρχ(ης) ὁ Φαγ..

1606. Λυκανδὸς σπαθαροκανδιδᾱτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)

Historical Museum, Karnobat. Discovered in the course of excavations in Markele on 16th August 1988, inventory no. 9. D. 20-20 (20 ?) 3.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. The side letters either did not print or printed on the edge of the blank. The unusual name and the incompleteness of the text render difficult the reading of the homonym.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: || N-I-K'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.VKAN. | .ΠΑ'KANΔ'S | TOPMAPX | ΔΟΝΛΟC | ΧΡΗCΤ8
[Λ]υκαν[δ(ὸς) σ]πα(θαρο)κανδ(ιδᾱτος) (καὶ) τορμάρχ(ης) δοῦλος Χριστοῦ

1607. Νικήτας β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾱτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: Silistra-Kalarash region. D. 19-22 (?) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint and bulla in a poor state of preservation.

Ed. Barnea, Sigillii, no 3.

No parallels known.

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl.I.5); in the quarters: TΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ NHK | HTAR'CΠ | ΑΘΑΡΟΚΑ | ΝΔ'STP8 | .APX'
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Νηκήτᾱ β'σπαθαροκανδ(ιδᾱτῳ) (καὶ)
τρου[μ]άρχ(η)

1608. Νικόλαος τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)

Private collection (Veliko Turnovo). A transcribed copy was given to me by K. Dochev. D. 25.5-26 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Traces of a circular inscription:ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ NIK | ΟΛΑΩ | .OVPM | ...
[+K(ύρι)ε βοήθει] τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Νικολάῳ [τ]ουρμ[άρχ(η)]

1609. Στέφανος β'σπαθᾱριος καὶ τουρμάρχης (VIII-IX c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: the region of Silistra-Kalarash. D. 23-28 (?) 4 mm.

Incomplete imprint. The blank was smaller in diameter than the dies.

Ed. Barnea, Sigillii, no 2.

No parallels known.

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.8); in the quarters: TΩ-Δ8 || ΛΩ-C8.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ CTE.. | ΝΩΒΑC | CΠΑΘΑΡ | ..STOVP | ΜΑΡΧ
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ δούλῳ σου Στε[φά]νῳ βας(ιλικῷ) σπαθαρ[ίῳ] (καὶ)
τουρμάρχ(η)

1610-1611. Χριστοφόρος β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾱτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)

1610. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18570. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 16-26 (22 ?)

2.1 mm. Incomplete imprint. Half preserved.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 487.

1611. Unknown place of preservation. A plaster cast. The following is noted on its back: "V. From Silistra, Dr. Haralanov, 1968". In addition to the cast, Dr. Haralanov enclosed a copy and a description in a separate letter to Prof. Gerassimov. D. 19-23 (23?) ? mm. Incomplete imprint. Perforated in two places and probably served as a button, as Dr. Haralanov noted in his letter.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallel known.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

a) - ◊ - | . ΧΡΙ . | . ΩΦΟ . | . CΠΑ . | |
b) - ◊ - | | . ΩΦΟΡ | . CΠΑΘ | . ΡΟΚΑ | . ΔΔΤ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) - ◊ - | . TP | . . AP . | | | - ◊ -
b) - ◊ - | . STP | . ΜΑΡΧ | . CT . . . | . PNIC | - ◊ -
[+] Χρι[στ]ωφόρ(ος) [β']σπαθ[α]ροκα[ν]δ(ι)δ(ᾱ)τ(ος) (καὶ) τρ[ου]μάρχ[η]ς
T....ρνις

The juxtaposing of the two specimens allows for a better but nevertheless incomplete reading of the text. The two holes damaged the last line but one on the reverse recording either the location of Christophoros's service or his family name.

1612. Χριστοφόρος Ν., β'σπαθαροκανδιδᾱτος καὶ τουρμάρχης (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 186. Find-spot: Silistra. It was passed on to the Museum by Asen Nikolov from Silistra in 1976. D. 22-25 (20) 2 mm, 6. 64 g. The most characteristic of the reverse text is that the paleography of some letters like A, M and others is similar to the Greek minuscule script. Incomplete imprint. The image and text printed only on the channel swelling. All that renders the reading uncertain.

Unpublished.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.CTO | .CΠAΘ. | .ANΔΔ'. | .P8M. | .ΩCΠ. | .AKM.
.ATA | .CΠAΘ. | .ANΔΔ'. | .P8M. | .ΩCT. | .AKH
[+Xρ(ι)]στο(φóρω) or [K]ατα[κ(αλω)] σπαθ(α)[ρ(ο)κ]ανδ(ι)δ(άτω) [(καὶ)
τ]ρουμ(ά)[ρ(χη) τ]ῷ Στ . . ακη

5. Κουμμερκιάριος

1613. Ἀγαθόνικος σπαθαροκανδιᾶτος καὶ κουμμερκιάριος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14629. Former collection of Emil Kossev from Shumen. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa, disc. Elkhovo. D. 20.5-23 (22 ?) 2.5 mm. W.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Melnitsa*, no. 1; **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 1.342

Parallels: **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p. 475. no. 4.

Obv. Nimbate bust of St. Peter, facing, wearing chiton and himation; r. hand held before chest in benediction; in l. hand a cross with a long shaft. Vertical inscription: ... || T-PO-C

Rev. Inscription of five lines. Border of dots.

+ KΕΡ'. | ΑΓΑΘΩ.. | ΚΟCΠA.. | .Δ'SK8.. | .KHA. |
+ K(ύρι)ε βοή[θ(ει)] Ἀγαθω[νί]κο σπα[θ(αροκ(αν)δ(ι)]δ(άτω) (καὶ)
κου[μερ]κηα[ρ(ίω)]

It is difficult to say whether the following two seals also belonged to this same Agathonikos: see **Gray Birch**, no. 17595 and **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 357.

1614. Εὐστράτιος Ῥωμανάκης κομμερκιάριος (XI c.)

Historical Museum, Balchik. Find-spot: the triangle between the villages of Tsurkva, Rogachevo and Obrochishte, particularly on the lower terrace northwest of the village of Obrochishte. D. 19.8-19.9 (19 ?) 2.1 mm. The blank slipped slightly to the left at the striking; as a result, the initial and final letters of the first lines were left out of it.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Балчик*, № 1; **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 598

No parallels known.

Obv. Potent cross on steps with fleurons. In the quarters: $\overline{\text{IC}}-\overline{\text{XC}}$ || NI - KA.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

. KΕΡ'Θ' | ΕVCTP. | Τ'ΚΟΜΕ. | ΚΑΡ'ΤΟ | Ρ'MAN | -K-
[+]K(ύρι)ε βοή[θ(ει)] Εὐστρ[α]τ(ίω) κομε[ρ]κ(ι)αρ(ίω) το Ῥ(ω)μαν(ά)κ(η)

1615. Καλοκύρις N., κομμερκιάριος ? (X-XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14766. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Malak Preslavets,

Silistra region. D. 23-25 (22) 4 mm. W. 11.64 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. The outlines of some letters are visible under the oxides.

Ed. **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 343.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ✥ - | . . ΕΡ'Θ' | .ΩCΩΔ' | . ΑΛΟΚ | -PH-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ✥ - | . . ΜΕ. | . . ΑΡΙ . | . PH . . . | - TP-
[+K(ύρι)]ε βοή[θ(ει)] [τ]ῷ σῷ δ(ούλω) [K]αλοκ(ύ)ρη [κο]με[ρ]κ(ι)αρί[ω]

6. Κόμης

1616. Θεόδωρος Φιλιππούπουλος πρωτοσπαθάριος καὶ κόμης (XI c.)

MIRSR 48/19. Formerly in the collection of the director of the college in Silistra, Perikle Papahagi. Find-spot: the town. D. 21-21 (15) ? mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. **Banescu**, **N. et Papahagi**, **P.** *Plombs byzantins decouverts a Silistrie.- Byzantion*, 10, 1935, no 1, 601-602.

Parallels: DO. 1. 3247. Poorly-preserved imprint, which seems to come from the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore holding a spear (l. hand) and a shield (r. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΘΕ-Ο || Δ-Ω-Ρ'

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ | CΤΡΑΤΙ | ΛΑΤΑΡΟΗ' | ΘΕΟΔΩΡ'Α' | CΠΑΘ'SKOM | ΤΙΤΩΦΙΑ' | ΠΠΛΩ
+ Στρατιλάτα βοή[θ(ει)] Θεοδώρ(ω) (πρωτο)σπαθ(αρίω) (καὶ) κόμ(ι)τι τῷ
Φιλ(ι)π(ου)π(ού)λω

1617. Κάλος Μαῦρος κόμης (XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 20. Find-spot: the town. D. 14-15 (?) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint, which renders the reading difficult.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no. 430.

No parallels known.

Obv. Traces of a vertical inscription. Indeterminate saint, turned three quarters l., his hands outstretched toward the hand of God that appears at the upper left side of the field.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.CΦΡΑ | .ΗΚΑΛ8 | .ΟΜΗΤΟ | . 8ΜΑV | ΡΟV
[+] Σφρα[γ]ῆς Καλου [κ]ομήτο(υ) [τ]οῦ Μαυροῦ

ECCLESIASTICAL ADMINISTRATION

It includes seals reflecting ecclesiastical hierarchy and administration. Their arrangement follows the model established in the Corpus of V. Laurent, in compliance, of course, with the specific features of the material from Bulgaria. In this case too, we try to determine the possible sender, recipient, date and occasion of the correspondence. Here, in contrast to the secular administration, there are more possibilities for searching, since a large number of the office holders took part in various councils, synods, etc., and a possible connection in time between various prelates could be traced. Many of them were writers, prominent intellectuals who frequently exchanged thoughts and commentaries through letters, of which a few transcripts and the bullae under discussion survive.

A. In the Capital

1. Patriarchal Seals

1618. Ἰωάννης Η' (21. 01. 837 - 04. 03. 843).

Archaeological Center, Develt, no. 216. Discovered in the course of excavations in the kommerkia in sector A-II. D. 25-26 (over 26) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint, blank smaller in diameter than the dies. The bulla itself is dented, perhaps hit during excavations.

Ed. Йорданов, *Девелт*, № 6.

Parallels: Further two specimens struck in the same boulloterion preserved in the Hermitage: M-571 (see Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 4); M-12411, originating from Cherson (see Соколова, И. В. Византийские печати VI- первой половины XI в. из Херсона.-*ВВр.*, 52, 1991, с. 210, N 40).

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.8); in the quarters : ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΙΩΑΝ | ΝΗΕΠΙΣΚΟΠ | .ΩΝCΤΑΝΤ | .ΟΛΝΕΑC | ΡΩΜΗC

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰωάννῃ ἐπισκόπ(ῳ)

[K]ωνσταντ(ινο)[π]όλ(εας) Νέας Ῥώμης

The seal belonged to the Constantinopolitan Patriarch John VII, called Grammatikos, and the epithet Νέας Ῥώμης is for the first time attested on his seals.

John Grammatikos was a prominent theologian and ideologist of the iconoclasm. Before being proclaimed Patriarch, he was burdened with the education of the future emperor Theophilos (829-842). He remained as one of the pillars of iconoclasm even after his dismissal in 843. According to the biographer Constantine, called Cyril the Philosopher, one of the creators of the Slavonic Script, he entered into a dispute with John Grammatikos prior to his demotion and beat him (*Dvornik*, *Les legendes*, 33-35).

The basic question arising from the discovery of this bulla in the kommerkia of Develtos is to whom and on what occasion the correspondence was sent and respectively received.

It is known that there was a bishop's see in Develtos. The names of some of the office holders are also known: George, taken prisoner by the Bulgarians during the capture of the town in 812, and Symeon, a participant in the Photios Council in 879 (see **Asdracha**, *La Thrace*, p. 300). Thus it could be assumed that the recipient of the correspondence was the bishop of Develtos, but it is hardly possible that his residence was the modest building of the kommerkia.

It is more likely that the receipt here of the Patriarch's correspondence was in connection with the Bulgarian-Byzantine relations in which John VII Grammatikos acted as an intermediary. But we do not know what exactly his role was.

In this period Bulgaria was a pagan country. But it is a fact that correspondences of Emperor Theophilos (829-843), the logothetes of the Dromos, patrikios Theoktistos and other Byzantine policy-makers of the time were received in the kommerkia exactly at this juncture. It may well be that this correspondence was an attempt at regulating the Bulgarian-Byzantine relations.

1619. Θεοφύλακτος (933-956)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 245. Find-spot: Preslav. Offered for purchase along with other ten Byzantine seals by Emil Kosev from Shumen in 1994. Well-centered but nevertheless incomplete imprint. The side letters were effaced or did not print. D. 25-25 (23) 4 mm. W. 10.67 g. Specimen in a good state of preservation, despite the oxide seats at some places.

Ed. **Йорданов, И.** Печат на византийския патриарх Теофилакт (933-956), намерен в Преслав.-*ТАНГРА. Сборник в чест на 70-годишнината на акад. Васил Гюзелев*, София, 2006, 353-359.

No parallels known. The enquiry I made through colleagues in charge of collections throughout the world failed to yield any positive answer. Only Professor Werner Seibt from Vienna wrote me that in his collection there was a fragment, on which the name of this Patriarch could possibly be deciphered.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Above her head, a circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ Ι : + Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει [τῷ σῷ δούλῳ]

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΘΕΟΦΥΛΑΚΤΩΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣΝΕΑΣΡΩΜΗΣ*

+ Θεοφυλάκτῳ ἀρχιεπισκόπῳ Κωνσταντ(ינוν)πόλ(εως) Νέας Ῥώμης

The seal belonged to Patriarch Theophylaktos (933-956), son of Emperor Romanos I Lekapenos (920-944). The policy of Romanos I, as it is well known, aimed at placing the members of his family at the head of the main institutions in the Empire, similarly to the founder of the Macedonian dynasty Basil I (867-886) (see **Runciman**, *Romanus I Lakapenos*, p. 64).

From among the four sons of Romanos, Theophylaktos was destined for a Patriarch. The ensuing quite bazaar actions of the Palace, information on which is to be found in the contemporary chronicles, were in pursuit of this goal.

The Theophanes Continuatus reports that on 25th December 924 Emperor Romanos crowned his sons Stephanos and Constantine. His other son Theophylaktos (only seven years of age) took the vows for a cleric, was ordained as a subdeacon and was appointed synkellos of Patriarch Nicholas I Mystikos (901-907, 912-925).

"... on 15th July, sixth indiction (929), Patriarch Stephanos, who occupied the throne

only for two years and eleven months (925-928), died. On 14th December Triphonos was ordained as a patriarch for a definite period until Theophylaktos grew up..."(*Theophanis Continuatus*, p. 417.26; *Продолжатель Феофана*, с. 173.26).

"... on the expiration of established term in August, third indiction, Patriarch Triphonos was dismissed (928-931). He retired to his monastery and died, and the church was orphaned for a year and five months because of the young age of Romanos' son Theophylaktos, since, as was mentioned above, the king wished to appoint him patriarch" (see *Theophanis Continuatus*, p. 421.32; *Продолжатель Феофана*, с. 174.32).

"...on 2nd February, sixth indiction (933), the aforementioned emperor's son Theophylaktos was ordained as patriarch...The legates, who arrived from Rome, brought synodic decrees regarding his ordination. They led him to the patriarchal throne." (see *Theophanis Continuatus*, p. 422.34; *Продолжатель Феофана*, с. 174.34, зам.47). The blessing of the Roman Pope John XI was needed to lend significance to the event and to neutralize the church opposition. Two of the four papal legates were bishops (for all those events and their possible relation to the Byzantine political interests in Italy, see **Runciman**, *Romanus I Lakapenos*, 192-201).

Patriarch Theophylaktos' activity has received contradictory assessments. In the contemporary chronicles, and mostly in Theophanes Continuatus, he is described as an impious and disrespectful person, his fondness for horses is pointed out, as well as the fact that he built a stable in the immediate vicinity of Hagia Sophia. He would willingly interrupt the service in Hagia Sophia and run over to his stallions and mares and so on. Probably it is true, but we should take into consideration the person who ordered this work – Constantine VII, a representative of the Macedonian dynasty after the Lakapeni were dethroned. The relationships between Patriarch Theophylaktos and Constantine VII, who in 945 entered into effective rulership, were characterized with animosity and mutual distrust. Patriarch Theophylaktos, along with patrikios and parakiomomenos Theophanes, were the instigators of the plot aiming to restore the banished Romanos Lakapenos. Although the plot was discovered, Constantine VII did not dare to dethrone his brother-in-law (see *Theophanis Continuatus*, p. 440.5; *Продолжатель Феофана*, с. 180.5; **Runciman**, *Emperor Romanus I Lakapenos*, p.236). It is an interesting fact that seals of patrikios and protovestiaris Theophanes (927-934) were also found in Preslav, see **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 27-28, here nos. 264-265.

While various studies concentrate on his actions, in compliance with his father's, aiming to accentuate the leading role of the Empire and the ruling court in the then world. In 937 he sent messages to the patriarchs in Alexandria, Antiochos and Jerusalem advising them on the liturgical changes in Constantinople (**Grumel, Darrouzes**, *Les regestes*, fasc. II-III, no. 787). In order to strengthen the Byzantine influence in Hungary, in 948 he sent the monk Ierotheos as a Hungarian bishop there (Ιερόθεος ἐπίσκοπος Τουρκίας), see **Scylitzae**, p. 239.67-68.

In this connection, we should also consider his letter to the Bulgarian ruler Peter I (927-969) regarding the latter's inquiry what to do with the newly appeared heretics in his country and what punishments to impose on them.

A copy of the letter is found in a manuscript from the early XIVth c. preserved in the Ambrosiev library in Milan. It is addressed to Πέτρῳ Βουλγαρίας βασιλεῖ. It was written or given by the chartophylax John. This is the second letter of Patriarch Theophylaktos to Peter I; the first does not survive. The two letters of Peter I do not survive either. The letter lacks a precise date so assumingly it was received in Preslav between 940 and 956.

Without commenting on the content of the letter (originally published in 1913, see **Петровский**, 356-372; for its later publications and interpretations, see **Grumel**, *Regestes*, II, no. 789; **Ангелов**, *Богомилството*, 38-39, бел. 2. for the Bulgarian translation of the letter, see in *ГИБИ*, 5, 183-189.), what interests us is the fact that at least two messages on behalf of Patriarch Theophylaktos were received in Preslav between 940 and 956. They were sealed with at least two of his seals, one of which is assumingly the subject of the present research. This is a striking fact! After a millennium we can reassemble a letter and a seal once affixed to it, thus illustrating once again the unlimited possibilities of sigillography.

1620. Νικάλαος Γ' (1084 - 1111)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: some place in the Sliven region. D. 35-40 (33) ? mm, W. 38 g. Once a good imprint. Now broken into two parts.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 20. The other similar seal was appended to a document dated June 1087 (*MM*, VI, p. 32; **Grumel**, *Regestes*, no. 944; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, no.21).

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne holding Christ on her lap. On either side sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

- + - | ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ | ΕΛΕΩΘΝΑΡΧΙ | ΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ | ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤ'Ν8 |
ΠΟΛΕΩCΝΕΑΣ | ΡΩΜΗCΚΑΙΟΙ | ΚΟΝΜΕΝΙΚ' | ΠΡΙΑΡΧ
+ Νικόλαος ἐλέω Θεοῦ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντ(ι)νουπόλεως Νέας
Ῥώμης καὶ οἰκουμενικ(ὸς) π(ατ)ριάρχ(ης)

1621. Λουκᾶς (1157 - 1170)

Private collection (documented in Sofia by Mr. Stefan Bilik in 1996-1997). Find-spot: uncertain. In 2006 the same specimen or its copy was offered to V. Stankov from Batak. The information this time was that the specimen originated from the land of the town of Parvomay. Whether it is reliable information is another matter. I owe the illustration and metrical data to Mr. Stankov. D. 31-31 mm. Good imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Seibt-Zarnitz**, no 5.1.3. It is possible that this is the Sofia specimen. Recently many of the seals entering the Zarnitz collection originate from Bulgaria.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne holding Christ on her lap. On either side sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

- + - | ΛΟΥΚΑΣ | ΕΛΕΩΘΝΑΡΧΙ | ΕΠΙCΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝ | ΠΟΛΕΩCΝΕΑΣ |
ΡΩΜΗCΚΑΙΟΙ | Κ8ΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ | ΠΡΙΑΡΧ..
+ Λουκᾶς ἐλέω Θεοῦ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κων(σταντινου)πόλεως Νέας Ῥώμης
καὶ οἰκουμενικὸς π(ατ)ριάρχ(ης)

1622. Γεώργιος Β' (10. 09. 1991 - 07. 07. 1198)

Private collection (A. Hadgikostov from Stara Zagora). Find-spot: Nesebar (ancient Messimbrias). D. 42-45

(40) 3.6 mm. Good imprint in a good state of preservation except for the reverse which was damaged with a sharp object.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Lenormant**, *F. Deux bulles de plomb byzantines.-RN*, IX, 1864, 268-270, pl. XII.1; **Mordtmann**, *ΕΦΣ*, VI, 1871-1872, 110-111, no 1; **Konstantopulos**, no 22; **Regling**, *Bleisiegel*, III, p.105; **Лихачев**, *Печати патриархов*, с. 48; **Idem**, *Богоматери*, с. 98, ф. 217; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, no. 29; **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 32 a-b.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne holding Christ on her lap. On either side sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

- + - | ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ | ΛΕΩΘΝΑΡΧΙ | ΕΠΙCΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝ | ΤΑΝΤΙΝ8ΠΟΛΕΩC |
ΝΕΑΣ. ΩΜΗCΚΑΙ | ΟΙΚ8ΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ | ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧ..
+ Γεώργιος ἐλέω Θεοῦ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Νέας
Ῥώμης καὶ οἰκουμενικὸς π(ατ)ριάρχ(ης)

George Xiphilinos was elected Patriarch on 10th September 1191. Formerly he was a deacon and grand skevophilax of Hagia Sophia. His correspondence was received in Mesembria in the period 1191-1198. Who was it addresses to?

It is assumed that Nesebar was under Bulgarian control only for a short period until 1193, after which time Byzantine authority and administration were restored.

1623. Μακάριος (June 1377 - July 1379; July 1390 - January 1391)

RHM-Blagoevgrad, no.13-324. Discovered in the course of excavations in the so called 'feudal castle' in the Slavov Fortress in Melnik in 1976. D. 38-39 (34-34.6) 16 mm. It has a trapezoid shape and seemingly some kind of filling. A good successful imprint in a good state of preservation. Holed above the Virgin's head in the circumference probably for suspension from a document or for wearing as an icon.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *И. Моливдовул на константинополския патриарх Макарий, намерен в Мелник.- Векове*, 1, 1990, 16-19.

Parallel: **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 48; **Oikonomides**, *Dated*, no. 153.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a high-backed throne holding Christ on her lap. On either side the sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of eight lines:

+ΜΑΚΑ | ΡΙΟCΕΛΕΩΘΝ | ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙCΚΟΠΟ | CΚΩΝΤΑΝΤΙΝ8ΠΟ |
ΛΕΩCΝΕΑCΡΩΜΗ | CΚΑΙΟΙΚ8ΜΕΝΙ | ΚΟCΠΡΙΡΧ | ΗC
+ Μακάριος ἐλέω Θεοῦ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Νέας Ῥώμης
καὶ οἰκουμενικὸς π(ατ)ρι(ά)ρχ(ης)

Makarios is the only Constantinopolitan patriarch bearing this name, so any misidentification is impossible.

There is scanty information on his person. Before his election as a patriarch he was a metropolitan of Selevkia. He was placed at the head of the Eastern Church in June 1377 and dismissed in July 1379 along with Emperor Andronikos IV Palaiologos. He was reinstated for a few months (from July 1390 to September 1390 or January 1391) by the son of Andronikos IV, John VII Palaiologos (on his life and activity, see **Beck**, *Kirche*, 775-776).

According to Oikonomides (*Dated*, no 153), the seal of Makarios refers to the first period of his tenure as a patriarch, since the representation of the Virgin on a high-backed

throne is typical for his predecessors. The type of the Virgin sitting on a low-backed throne was common under his descendants.

What is more important is to try to answer the following questions: to whom, on what occasion and when was the correspondence sealed with the discovered patriarchal bulla received in Melnik?

What is the political situation in Melnik in the 1370s?

Due to the scanty documental sources, there are some contradictory opinions among investigators regarding the possession of these territories and specifically Melnik. According to some, after the battle at Chernomen in 1371, Melnik and its region was conquered by the Turks (see **Σπανδωνίδου, Π.** Μελνίκος ὁ νεκρός μακεδονικός ακριτής, Θεσσαλονίκης, 1930, 23-24, 50-60). Others express doubts about this date assuming the year 1387 as a more feasible one (see **Дуйчев, И.** Мелник през средните векове.- В: *Българско средновековие*, София, 1972, 410-411). According to some latest research, after the battle at Chernomen, the lands between Struma and Mesta were shared between the ruler of Thessalonike Manuel Palaiologos and despotes Constantine Dragash (**Matanov, C.** A Contribution to the Political History of South-Eastern Macedonia after the Battle of Cernomen.- *Etudes Balkaniques*, 2, 1986, 35-40).

In my publication cited above, I have included specific information about a dispute over ownership involving the Virgin Speleothissa monastery and the metropolitan bishopric in Melnik.

An account of this litigation is found in the register of the acts in the chancery of the Constantinopolitan patriarchate (**Darrouzes, Le regestes**, I, fasc. VI, no. 2692). It is about the ownership of a mill, which was owned by a certain John, a miller in the Speleotissa monastery. After his death, it was left by will to his son and daughter. But Makarios Maniakes, a monk in Kataphigon, sequestered the mill under metropolitan Cyril and forged the respective document on behalf of this metropolitan. He presented it to Spyridon, Cyril's successor, who endorsed the rights of Kataphigon. However, when the political power in Melnik went into the hands of Constantine Dragash, metropolitan Spiridon endorsed the rights of Speleotissa in response to the complaint of Arsenios, appointed as manciple of the Virgin Speleotissa monastery on behalf of the Vatopedi. That was done by a document endorsed in the metropolitan bishopric in Melnik in October, first indiction, the year 6886 (1377). The same judgment was also endorsed by Spiridon's successor Metrophanes. The date July, second indiction, the year 6887 (1378) is noted on the document. In addition to Metrophanes' signature, the document is also endorsed by Photios, bishop of Caesaropolis, Constantine Glabas, protonotarios of Serres, various officials at the metropolitan in Melnik and three officials of the region's ruler Constantine Dragash.

This judgment was probably unsatisfactory to both sides, as a result of which the arbitration of the Patriarchate was sought and all documents regarding this case were sent there. This was followed by an order of Patriarch Makarios generally dated spring-summer 1379, according to which metropolitan Gregorios, who held the Philippopolis metropolitan see, had to make an enquiry into the case in Melnik. The metropolitan of Melnik Metrophanes was simultaneously advised of this order.

Due to illness and other commitments metropolitan Gregorios was hindered from doing the enquiry himself and he authorized the following as his proxies: Photios, bishop of Cesaropolis, and Constanine Glabas, protonotarios of Serres, for which he had a given mandate.

This document does not provide the answers to the questions to whom and on what occasion

the correspondence stamped with Patriarch Makarios' seal was received in Melnik, but, figuratively speaking, it lifts the curtain of oblivion revealing the names of the personages as possible addressees of the patriarch.

Thus, who were the recipients of the patriarch's correspondence in the period 1377-1279?

a) the metropolitan of Melnik. There are three available names: Cyril, replaced by Spiridon who signed the document in 1377 and finally Metrophanes (July 1378). It has been argued about the latter (**Darrouzes, Le regestes**, I, fasc. VI, p. 11) that he was metropolitan from July 1378 at the latest and later topos of Trayanopolis. The patriarch could have written to the above metropolitans of Melnik both regarding the described dispute and on various other occasions, for example in connection with appointments of metropolitans, etc.

b) the governor of the town seeking information and assistance. But who this governor was and whether he had any contacts with the patriarch are open questions.

c) the Virgin Speleotissa monastery as an interested party.

No certain answer is possible. The bulla of Patriarch Makarios discovered in Melnik in a tower, where, according to the excavators, lived the governor of the town, gives us a chance to dip into the history of the town.

1624. N., XII-XIII c.

RHM-Burgas. Discovered in the course of archaeological excavations near the present-day village of Ruen, Burgas region, supervised by Ivan Karayotov on the path between squares 2 and 6. A perpyron of John Doukas Vatatzes originates from the same site. Subsequently the seal of John grand domestikos of the whole East and West was found from the same village (see no. 1017). D. 30.5-30.5 (25) 4 mm. It was probably a complete imprint; currently an illegible inscription of small indistinct letters. The bulla itself is heavily damaged, especially the obverse. Holed in the upper part and probably worn as a medallion.
Unpublished.

Parallels are impossible to find.

Obv. Slightly discernible outlines of the Virgin seated on a backless throne holding Christ on her lap.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

.....C | ΕΛΕΩΘΑΡΧΙ | ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΚΩΝ | ΠΟΛΕΩCΝΕΑC | ΡΩΜΗCΚΑΙΟΙ
| Κ8ΜΕΝΙΚΟC | ΠΡΙΑΡΧΗC
+ς ἐλέω Θεοῦ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κων(σταντινου)πόλεως Νέας Ῥώμης καὶ οἰκουμενικὸς π(ατ)ριάρχης

The main problem in the commentary is the name of the patriarch. The whole first line recording it is obliterated. With a pinch of imagination one can see the last letter C, which is of no great help. Any name in nominative case should end in this letter.

2. Offices at the Patriarchate

a) χαρτουφύλαξ

1625. Σαμουήλ Μαυροπόδης χαρτουφύλαξ (second half of the XII c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-31 (28) ? mm. Superb imprint and bulla in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no 455.

Parallels: Further three specimens struck in the same boulloterion and of the same quality are preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58. 106. 5453 and 58. 106. 5716) (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.2, no. 1615 bis) and the Hermitage (M-6648, see **Шандровская**, **В. С.** Несколько печатей с редкими изображениями.- АДСВ, 34, 2003, 220-221, fig. 13)..

Obv. St. Samuel standing on a souppendion, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Inscription in two columns: || CA-M8-ΗΛ : [Ὁ ἅγιος] Σαμουὴλ

Rev. Inscription of five lines.

+ ΟΧΑΡ | ΤΟΦΥΛΑΞ | ΣΑΜΟΝΗΛ | ΜΑΥΡΟΠΟ | ΔΗΣ | ο

+ Ὁ χαρτοφύλαξ Σαμουὴλ Μαυροπόδης

Samuel Mauropous is a representative of the family Mauropous, who played an important role in the church of Byzantium.

He started his career in Hagia Sofia at an early age. Initially he was λευίτης, according to the data of an extant seal (see **Панченко**, Каталог, № 106, табл. VI.7; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.2, no. 1134).

In 1166, he was already κανστρίσιος and was appointed χαρτοφύλαξ after his close relative (brother or cousin) Michael of Anchialos was elected patriarch under the name of Michael III (1170-1178). He was chartophylax until 1177 (2nd September), when Theodore Balsamon succeeded him on this post (see **Darrouzes**, *Offikia*, p. 104, 529.5, 530.3).

b) σκευοφύλαξ

His duties involved keeping the sacred possessions (vestments, vessels and objects) necessary for the performance of the cult. His functions covered the following activities: provision of wine, wax and incense; maintenance of the decoration and property of the Great Church; supervision and assignment of psalmody; keeping the church treasures, etc.

The office is attested as early as the Vth c. and is significant in the church hierarchy. There are cases when the skeuophylax was elected patriarch. The title μέγας σκευοφύλαξ was introduced ca. 1094.

Lit. **Brehier**, *Institutions*, p. 501; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, p. 63; **Darrouzes**, *Offikia*, 314-318.

1626. Ἰωάννης Παντεχνῆς σκευοφύλαξ (50s-60s of the XII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no.138. Find-spot: uncertain. The reported information is that it had been purchased from a citizen of Sozopol. D. 25-25(24) 3 mm. W. 9.45 g. Successful imprint. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Family Names*, no.557.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla:

MP || ΘV : Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ | ΟΣΚΕΥΟ | ΦΥΛΑΞΙΑΝ | ΤΕΧΝΗC | ΙΩ

+ Ὁ σκευοφύλαξ Παντεχνῆς Ἰω(άννης)

The owner of the seal affixed to a correspondence to Sozopol is Ἰωάννης Παντεχνῆς in his capacity as skevophylax.

At least two representatives of this family named John are attested in various written sources from the XI-XIIth centuries:

Ἰωάννης Παντεχνῆς (1) was a correspondent of Theophylaktos of Ohrid and held the title magistros. On him, see above.

Ἰωάννης Παντεχνῆς (2) held high posts in the ecclesiastical hierarchy in the third quarter of the XIIth century. The analysis of various documentary sources determine the following cursus honorum (see **Darrouzes**, *Offikia*, p. 105; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, p. 52):

a) χαρτοφύλαξ in the years of Patriarch Kosma II (1146-1147). He remained on this post until 1156 at the earliest, since in this capacity he signed a synodical act of 26th January 1156 (see **Grumel**, *Regestes*, no. 1038).

b) μέγας σκευοφύλαξ – a short time after the synod of 1158 until 1166.

c) οἰκονόμος τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας – after 1166 until the end of the reign of Manuel I Komnenos. There is his seal known from this period (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, no. 59 and unpublished from Zacos, III, no. 1696.

d) We cannot say with absolute certainty whether a metrical seal preserved in DO.58. 106. 5716 and dated to the end of the XI c. belonged to him.

Obv. Jesus of the Chalke standing. On either side vertical inscription: IC-XC || O-X-A-Λ || KI-TH-C.

Rev. + | ΤΟΙCΙΑΝ | ΤΕΧΝΗΓΑΜ | ΜΑCΙΧΑΡΙΩ | ΝΥΜ8οΧCΑΥ | ΤΟCΘΡΑΓΙC | ΑCΦΑΛΕCΤΑ | -TH-

The coincidence of names and positions gives us no reason to dissociate the owner of the bulla from Sozopol from the person of τῷ μεγάλῳ σκευοφύλακι τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας κυρῷ Ἰωάννῃ τῷ Παντεχνῇ, mentioned in one of George Tornikes' letters (see **Darrouzes**, *Tornikes*, no. 26, 169-171).

It is difficult to determine the character of skevophylaktos John Pantechnes's correspondence. Whether it was addressed to the local prelate and who he was are questions dwelled upon in the last part of this research.

3. Offices at the Patriarchal Chancery

Various kinds of activities characterizing the nature of Byzantine church were concentrated in this chancery. Acts and orders of various types were issued in it: dogmatic, ecclesiastical, disciplinary, judicial, political, etc. Hence, different offices and officials who implemented the church's policy through the activities of the patriarchal chancery existed here. The office of the chartophylax grew in significance developing gradually from a simple keeper of the patriarchal library to the principal minister of the patriarch. There was also a huge apparatus of notarioi, grammatikoi, secretaries/ sekretikoi, chartoularioi, etc. attached to various departments.

Lit. **Brehier**, *Institutions*, p. 400; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, p. 98; **Darrouzes**, *Offikia*, 296-301.

a) νοτάριος

1627-1630. Ἰωάννης κουβουκλήσιος καὶ νοτάριος (X-XI c.)

A.

1627. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 20178. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-21 (17) 2 mm, W. 3.90 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Deeply corroded.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 380.

1628. RHM-Shumen, no. 14217. Former collection of Nikolay Georgiev from Shumen. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 16-23 (?) 2 mm, W. 3.10 g. As the above: incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Corroded. Chipped.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 381.

1629. RHM-Shumen, no. 15228. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 23-23 (19?) 4 mm. W. 10.66 g. Overstruck or struck twice and as a result indistinct.

Unpublished.

1630. c. Private collection. It probably "leaked" from Preslav. D. 19-20 mm. As above.

Unpublished.

The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels: known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons up to second arms. Remnants of a circular inscription:

..... ΤΩCΩΔΟΝΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | ἸΩΚ. | . ΚΛΗ. | . ΝΟΤΑ | ΡΙΟ

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει] τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰω(άννῃ) κ[ουβου]κλη[σ(ίῳ) (καὶ)] νοταρίο

B.

1631. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24550. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 19-22 (?) 2 mm, W. 4.15 g. Incomplete imprint in a relatively good state of preservation. Large fields from the upper and lower dies did not print.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 379.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). No legible remnants of a vertical inscription.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

- ο - | ἸΩΚ. | . 8ΚΛΗC | . ΝΟΤΑ | ΡΙΟ

+ Ἰω(άννῃ) κ[ουβ]ουκλησ(ίῳ) [(καὶ)] νοταρίο

b) χαρτουλάριος

1632. Ἰωάννης δαάκονος τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας καὶ χαρτουλάριος (second half of the XI c.)

Private collection (St. Bilik from Sofia). Find-spot: Ahtopol. D. 16-18 (14?) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. Blank smaller than dies. The reverse is more worn.

Ed. Йорданов, Койчев, Мутафов, Ахтопол, № 9.

Parallels: Schlumberger, Sig., p. 132, no. 6; Laurent, Corpus, V.1, no. 71; Шандровская, Искусство, № 759 (M-6571). Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans. Sigla.. || Θ̄V̄.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ἸΩΔΙΑ.. | Ν'ΤΗCΜ... | ΕΚΚΛΗCΙΑ. | .ΧΑΡΤ8ΛΑ | - ... -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοή(θ)ει Ἰω(άννῃ) δια[κό]ν(ω) τῆς Μ(ε)γ(ά)[λης] Ἐκκλησία[ς (καὶ)] χαρτουλα[ρίῳ]

1633. Χριστοφόρος β' κληρικὸς καὶ χαρτουλάριος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18897. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 15.5-16 (15) 2.5 mm, W. 3.52 g. Good but nevertheless incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 382.

Parallel: Zacos, Seals, II, no. 110. Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Decorative cross on three steps with flaring arms, each end decorated with three pellets.

Along border of dots a circular inscription: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ' ΤΩCΩ....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΧΡΙ | CΤΟΦ'Ρ' | ΚΛΗΡΙΚ' | .ΧΑΡΤ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοή(θ)ει τῷ σῷ [δούλῳ] Χριστοφ(όρῳ) β' κληρικ(ῷ) [(καὶ)] χαρτ(ουλαρίῳ)

Despite the ecclesiastical title of this person, we cannot be certain that it applies to an office at the Patriarchal chancery. He could have been in service at some secular department.

4. Patriarchal Titles

a) κουβουκλήσιος

Officials from the Patriarch's retinue in charge of his bedchamber, parallel to the emperor's κουβικουλάριος. It is attested as an effective title as early as the Council of Nicaea in 787 and outlived the Empire. During patriarch's journeys this retinue preceded the procession holding their staffs against their shoulders. The office gradually developed into a title. In the IXth and Xth centuries it was granted to individuals with important roles in the life of the Church and the Empire, but it was gradually degraded and was intended mostly for the lower clergy – deacons, priests and especially monks. It is an interesting ascertainment that seals of individuals holding patriarchal titles originate mostly from Dristra.

Lit. Schlumberger, Sig., p.386; Laurent, Corpus, V.1, p. 119; Darrouzes, Offikia, 39-40.

1634. Βασίλειος κουβουκλήσιος καὶ καθηγούμενος (IX-X c.)

Private collection (Vurban Vurbanov, Elhovo). Find-spot: village of Melnitsa, disc. Elkhovo. D. 20-25 mm. Weak imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 6.

No parallels known.

Obv. Part of a patriarchal cross with fleurons. Along of the border of dots traces of a circular inscription:ΤΩCΩ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ACIA. | IΩKOVR | .Λ'SKA. | ..8M.

[+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθει] τῷ σῷ [δούλω B]ασιλ[ε]ίῳ κουβ(ου)[κ]λ(ησίῳ) (καὶ)

κα[θηγ]ουμ[έ(νῳ)]

1635. Λέων κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no.1262. Find-spot: the town. D. 19-20 (16) 3.5 mm. Complete imprint but indistinct letters.

Corroded surface.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, II, № 8.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (r. hand). Vertical inscription:

O-NI || ...

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΛΕ | ΩNK8 | R8KAI | CIΩ

+ Λέων(τι) κουβουκλίσίῳ

1636. Νικήτας κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28696. Find-spot: uncertain (Plovdiv or Haskovo region). D. 22-26 (15) mm. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps standing on ball with fleurons arising from base up to the second arms. Along border of dots a circular inscription: +K ROHΘ'TΩCΩ..

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.NIKI | .AKOV | . 8KA'C | HΩ

+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ [δού(λῳ)] Νικί[τ]α κου[β]ουκλ(η)σίῳ

1637-1638. Νικήτας κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

1637. RHM-Dobroch. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 19-20 (19?) 2.8 mm. Incomplete imprint due to off-centering and irregular shape of the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, I, № 13.

1638. Private collection (Zh. Bjulbjulev from Harmanli). Find-spot: Silistra. D. 19-21 (19?) 2.1 mm. Bulla in a poor state of preservation. Fragments missing.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, II, № 10.

The both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of unknown military saint (St. Theodore) holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l.

hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a) + NI | KITAK. | ROVKΛ. | C. .

b) . NI | . . TAK. | . . VKΛ. | . IΩ

+ Νικίτ] κ[ου]βουκλ[η]σίῳ

1639. Νικήτας (μοναχός) καὶ κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

National Historical Musuem, Sofia, no. 21122. Find-spot: uncertain [Silistra ?]. D. 19-21 (13) 3.5 mm.

Well-centered but incomplete imprint. The bulla bent at the striking, which renders the overall reading difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John Chrysostomos holding a scepter (r. hand) and a book (?) in l. hand.

Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-...X || C-T-O-M-O'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+KERO' | NIKHTA | ..SK8R8 | .AICI | Ω

+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Νικίτ[α] [(μον)αχ(ῶ)] (καὶ) κουβου[κ]λίσίῳ

1640. Σισίνιος κληρικὸς καὶ κουβουκλήσιος (X-XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18569. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 20-22.5 (19) 2-2.1 mm, W. 5.20 g. Incomplete imprint. Large fields did not print. Holed at the side but as it seems with corrosion.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 386.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising between first and second arms.

Remnants of a circular inscription: ΩΔΟ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ CIC. | .. Ω.Λ. | ..K8... | KAI...

[+ K(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δο[ύλω] Σισ[ινί]ῳ [κ]λ[ηρ(ι)κ(ῶ)] (καὶ)
κου[βου]κλι[σίῳ]

b) σύγκελλος / πρωτοσύγκελλος

It was an effective office in the ecclesiastical hierarchy until the Xth c. It was held by an advisor, secretary, vicar and very often successor to the patriarch appointed by the emperor in person. In the written sources from the second half of the Xth c. more than one synkellos is mentioned, some of which also provincial metropolitans, implying that this effective title like many others merely acquired a titular significance. In the XIth c. it was conferred by the emperor on various clerics, thus giving them access to the synkletos. Later a tendency is observed for the office holders to introduce this title into the ecclesiastical hierarchy. A well-known case is when at a reception on 29th May 1059 the synkelloi wished to occupy posts higher than those of the metropolitans. The decree of Constntine X Doukas (1059-1067) was

as a response, according to which the synkelloi had no privileges within the ecclesiastical hierarchy but only in the Senate, where their title was equivalent to that of the πρόεδρος. A derivative of σύγκελλος is πρωτοσύγκελλος with an evolution similar to the other secular titles.

Lit. Скабаланович, *Византийское*, с. 157; Oikonomides, *Listes*, p. 308, n. 114-116; Laurent, *Corpus*, V. 1, 147-148; Darrouzes, *Offikia*, 16-33.

1641. Θεοδούλος μοναχὸς καὶ σύγκελλος (third quarter of the XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22906. Find-spot: Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-27.5 (22) 3 mm, W. 15.40 g. Incomplete imprint. The letters either did not print or were effaced.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 377.

Parallels: Schlumberger, *Sig.*, p. 143, no 4; Laurent, *Corpus*, V.1, no 227.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ (l. arm). On either side sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || $\overline{\text{ΘV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΕΟ | . ΣΛΩΜΟ | Ν.. ΩΚΕ | CVNKE | ΛΩ

+ Θεο[δ]ούλω μον[αχ]ῳ κὲ συνκέλω

For more information on this dignitary, see no. 1650 here.

1642. Ἀπλάσᾱκης πρωτοσύγκελλος (third quarter of the XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 1283. Find-spot: Silistra. D.19-20 (19) 3 mm. Good imprint made slightly in the upper half: as a result parts of the depiction and some letters remained out of the blank. Bulla in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, *Силистра*, IV, № 1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cross standing on ball with top and each arm decorated with one ball; on either side fleuron to first transverse bar. This type of cross is similar to the one represented on Byzantine anonymous coins, class I, see Grierson, *DOC*, III.2, 696-699.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ'| ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'| ΑΠΛΑCΑΚΗ | ΠΡΩΤ'CVΓ | ΚΕΛΛΩ | - ο -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῳ δούλ(ω) Ἀπλάσᾱκη πρωτ(ο)συγκέλω

The correspondence of Aplasakes protosynkellos was received in Dristra in the 1070s-1080s. This is also the first instance when we come upon the name Aplasakes.

Probably Aplasakes held the honorific title protosynkellos and lived in Constantinople. His correspondence to Dristra could have been addressed to the local prelate – the protosynkellos Christophoros.

1643. Στέφανος πρωτοσύγκελλος (third quarter of the XI c.)

Private collection (Vasil Vasilev, Shumen, offered for purchase at the National Historical Museum, Sofia).

Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Razboyna-Prosenik, Burgas region. D. 13-14 (11) 3 mm. Good

imprint and bulla in good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Stephanos holding a small cross (r. hand) and a box? (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: .. Ε || Φ-ΑΝ'

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ'| CΤΕΦΑΝ'| Α'CVNSΛ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Στεφάν(ω) (πρωτο)συνκέλ(ω)

5. Churches and their offices in capital

a) ἐκκλησέδικοι

A department which originates in the outset of the ecclesiastic institutions. Each bishop (and the patriarch was intrinsically such), besides being a priest, was also a protector of his congregation from the high-handedness of the secular authorities. But in order to fulfil this function, he was helped by a college of people well acquainted with the ecclesiastic and civil law, with solving property issues, etc. Such a college of ἔκδικοι was first constituted at a session of the synod in Cartagen in 401. The college was headed by πρωτοέκδικος. It helped the patriarch in his daily work.

In the next centuries, this college called ἐκκλησέδικοι moved to Hagia Sophia. Its seat was σεκρετοῦ τῶν ἱερέων, where the registers of this department were also kept. Numerous acts and deeds regarding the property of secular and ecclesiastic persons and mostly of the Church itself were kept there. It preserved its significance until the fall of the Empire, and a collective seal of fairly large size and talking iconography was affixed to its decisions. The type of these seals remained unchanged for more than two centuries. Certain details in the iconography and paleography allow for a more precise dating.

Lit.: Laurent, *Corpus*, V.1, p. 86, 90; Darrouzes, *Offikia*, 12, 16, 41, 87, 97, 131, 175, 211, 538; Cotsonis, J. The Virgin and Justinian on Seals of the Ekklesiekdikoi of Hagia Sophia, 41-55.

1644-1648. ἐκκλησέδικοι τῆς Ἀγίας Σοφίας (XII-XIII c.)

1644. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 109. Find-spot: generally northern Bulgaria. Formerly in the possession of the school inspector in the town of Lom. It entered the Collection of Archaeological Museum of Sofia in 1947. D. 66-68 (48) 5 mm, W. 180 g. The reverse imprint is off-centered, slightly to the left. Specimen in a very good state of preservation.

Ed. Герасимов, Т. Моливдовул на клира при цариградската Св. София.-ПП, IV, 19-21; Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 71.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, II, nos. 62-77, containing all seals hitherto familiar to this scholarship.

Obv. Circular inscription: on l., Ι8.....ΔΕ...(weakly struck); on r., + ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙ

Justinian I (l.) and the Virgin (r.) standing and holding between them a diminutive model of Hagia Sophia; the emperor's l. hand supports the edifice, while his r. is half-raised before him in prayer. The Virgin is turned three-quarter l. with the head facing; she supports the edifice with both hands. The dome of the Church is surmounted by a cross with two tendril-like ornaments at its base; vertical lines running from the crown of the dome to its

base suggest ribs of lead sheathing the dome which rests on a facade with a pillar appear two closed wings of the entrance gate; the wings are reinforced by horizontal braces.

In upper field HA || ΓΙ-Α; below the edifice: C-O-Φ-I-A. Border of dots (doubelstruck).

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει Ἰου[στινιανὸν] δε[σπότην]. Ἡ ἁγία Σοφία.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ | ΤΟΙCΘΕΟ | CΕΡΕCΤΑ | ΤΟΙCΠΡΕC | RVΤΕΡΟΙC | ΚΑΙΕΚΚΛΗ |

CΕΚΔΙΚΟΙC | - * -

+ Τοῖς θεοσεβεστάτοις πρεσβυτέροις καὶ ἐκκλησεκδίκους

1645. Private collection (A. Hadzhikostov from Stara Zagora). Find-spot: Nessebar, the old town. D. 47-49 (46) 3.5 mm. Good imprint in a good state of preservation. Holed in the upper half, presumably worn as an icon.

Unpublished.

Parallels: *Sacos, Seals*, II, nos. 73, but struck in a different boulloterion.

Obv. As the above with certain differences. The relief of the images is effaced and the details are not visible. The inscription is almost completely obliterated. Only the right half is preserved: + Μή(τ)ηρ Θ(εο)ῦ, ἡ βοήθ(ει) [Ἰουστινιανὸν δεσπότην. Ἡ ἁγία Σοφία]

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | ΤΟΙCΘΕ | ΟCΕΡΕCΤΑΤΟΙC | ΠΡΕCRVΤΕΡΟΙC | ΚΑΙΕΚΚΛΗC | ΕΚΔΙΚΟΙC |

+ Τοῖς θεοσεβεστάτοις πρεσβυτέροις καὶ ἐκκλησεκδίκους

1646. Archaeological Museum, Varna, no. VIII, 49. Find-spot: Galata Housing Estate in Varna. D. 48-55 mm. Well-centered and generally complete imprint. The side letters of the inscription did not print. Effaced surface. Covered with oxides.

Unpublished.

Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, II, nos. 73, but struck with a different boulloterion.

Obv. As above. The surface is oxidated and details are invisible. The inscription is almost completely obliterated. Traces of certain letters are visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | ΤΟΙCΘΕ | ΟCΕΡΕCΤΑΤΟΙC | ΠΡΕCRVΤΕΡΟΙC | ΚΑΙΕΚΚΛΗC | ΕΚΔΙΚΟΙC |

+ Τοῖς θεοσεβεστάτοις πρεσβυτέροις καὶ ἐκκλησεκδίκους

1647. Private collection (Simeonovgrad). It was given to me to document by Yanko Todorov from Shumen. Find-spot: the area of Dimitrovgrad – Simeonovgrad. D. 25-61.5 (44) 5 mm. Superb imprint, but only half preserved.

Unpublished.

No exact parallels. Very similar, presumably from the same boulloterion as that in *Zacos, Seals*, II, no 66.

1648. Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. Fragment of the following dimensions: 25-23 mm

Unpublished.

The presented seals are dated generally to the XIIth-XIIIth centuries and illustrate the contacts of this institution with various addressees in modern Bulgaria.

b) τῆς Νέας

This epithet was used in the sources to report about a palace church and a monastery built by order of Emperor Basil I (867-886) from the Macedonian dynasty. The construction of the church began in 876/877 and its inauguration was in 881. It was dedicated to the Virgin, prophet Ilia, St. archangel Michael and St. Nicholas. The church building was preserved until XIVth century.

There is scarcely any information about the early period of the monastery which was contemporary to the church. It was attested in documents no earlier than the XIIIth c. (see Janin, *Eglises et monasteres*, 374-379)

It is interesting that similar to Hagia Sofia the officials at the church and the monastery were not only clerics but also laymen (see *Laurent, Corpus*, V.2, p.89).

1649. Βασίλειος ραίκτωρ καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας (IX-X c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15175. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 171. Find-spot: uncertain.

The collection is from the Plovdiv region. D. 22-24 (21) 3 mm. W. 7.80 g. Well-centered and well-preserved specimen with clear-cut letters. Nevertheless, the imprint slightly slipped in the boulloterion and the border of dots is printed three times.

Ed. *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no.346.

No parallels known.

Obv. Eight radial rays, a letter at each end and, when joined together, they give the invocation: ΚΡΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ RACIA' | PEKT'PISV | K'NOM'THC | N'EKKA'

+ Κ(ύριε) β(οήθει) τῷ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Βασιλ(είῳ) ραίκτ(ω)ρι (καὶ) υκ(ο)νόμ(ω) τῆς Ν(έας) Ἐκκλ(ησίας)

The owner of the seal Basil held the title rector and was a steward of the New Church. This is usual practice attested on other seals too (see *DOS*, V, no. 48).

Pomanos Argyros had a similar position in the secular and church administration before he was elected emperor. He was πατρίκιος, κριτής ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας (see *Vannier, Argyroi*, no. 11).

1650. Θεοδούλος μοναχὸς, σύγκελλος καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας (third quarter of the XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 17227. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 25-30 (23 ?) 2 mm. Incomplete imprint. Poor state of preservation. Broken into two parts.

Ed. *Йорданов, Преслав*, № 378.

Parallels: The Hermitage (M-3869), see *Панченко*, Каталог № 339 struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ (l. arm). No sigla visible.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ÷ - |+ ΘΕΟ | .ΟV.M. | CVTK' S.. | KON'TH. | -ΝΕΑ -

+Θεο[δ]ού[λ(ω)] μ(ονα)[χ(ῶ)] συγκ(έλω) (καὶ) [οἰ]κον(όμω) τῇ[ς] Νέα(ς)

In my publication cited above I proposed a different restoration of the missing letters from line 3 and 4: S.. | KON' : (καὶ) [δια]κόν(ω). Now I determine that it comes from the same boulloterion as the specimen from the Hermitage.

Clearly the two groups of seals of Theodoulos monk and synkelos (see no.1641) and the one presented here belonged to one and the same person.

It is impossible to say who this Theodoulos was. It is likewise impossible to know the possible recipient of his correspondence in Preslav. But the fact that he sent his correspondence in two different stages of his career shows that his spiritual brother or relative was located here. Who was he? There is no direct answer to this question, but certain assumptions could be made.

The dating of these two groups of seals is generally to the third quarter of the XIth century.

Correspondence from the metropolitans of Dristra and Mesembria was received in Preslav at the same juncture. Who was their addressee? The governor of the town or the local prelate? In either case, it could be to some prominent cleric or man of letters.

1651. Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας (X-XI c.)

Private collection in Haskovo. A cast was given to me through D. Aladzhov. The original seal was found in the stronghold near present-day Dimitrograd. D. 29-30 (24) ? mm. Good imprint. Specimen in a very good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns:

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- ✥ - | ἸΩ'Α'ΣΠΑ | Θ'ΚΡΙΤ'ΕΠΙ | Τ'ΙΠΠΟΔ'Σ | ΟΙΚΟΝ'ΤΙC | ΝΕΑ
+ Ἰω(άννης) (πρωτο)σπαθ(άριος) κριτ(ῆς) ἐπὶ τ(οῦ) ἵπποδ(ρόμου) (καὶ)
οἰκον(όμος) τῆς Νέας(ς)

The owner of the seal affixed to the correspondence to the medieval settlement near Dimitrograd was Ἰωάννης πρωτοσπαθάριος, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Νέας. Its dating is generally to the X-XIth centuries. The combination between a secular title and position and the office of oikonomos of the New church or monastery should not be surprising.

Before becoming an emperor, Romanos Argyros had a similar position in the secular and ecclesiastical administration. He was πατρίκιος, κριτῆς ἐπὶ τοῦ ἵπποδρόμου καὶ οἰκονόμος τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας (see **Vannier**, *Argyroi*, no. 11).

6. Monasteries in the capital and unspecified locations

1652. Λαύρας τοῦ κῦρ Ἀντωνίου (XIc.)

It should be located in the Archaeological Museum in Sofia, but I have had no access to it. Find-spot: Pliska, during archeological excavations in 1931-1937 conducted by K. Miatev. D. 25-25 (20) 2 mm. A well-centered but incomplete imprint. Parts of the image and some of the letters are missing.

Ed. Герасимов, Плиска, № 5; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, no. 1139; **Йорданов**, Плиска, № 25; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 9.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hand raised before her. Sigla: $\overline{MP} || \overline{OV}$.

Rev. Inscription of four lines preceded by decoration:

- . - | +THC | ΛΑΥΡΑC | Τ8Κ'VAN | . ΩNI. | - . -
+Τῆς λαύρας τοῦ κ(υρίο)υ Ἀ[ν]τωνί[ου]

1653. Μονῆς τῆς Θεοτόκος τῆς Βλαχερντίσσα (XII c.)

RHM-Pernik, no. 354. Found in the course of excavations in the medieval fortress near the town. D. 22-24 (18-19) 3 mm. Well-centered imprint, but rather weak and indistinct. It is mostly so on the obverse. Bulla in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Юркува, Перник, II, 135-136, табл. IV.6; **Йорданов**, Перник, № 14.

No parallels known.

Obv. Monogram, consisting of the letters M, N and C, which can be restored as follows:

μ(ο)ν(ῆ)ς. A border of pallets.

Rev. Monogram, consisting of the letters B, Λ, A, X, P, which can be restored as follows:

Βλαχ(ε)ρ(νιτίσσα). A border of pallets.

The original publisher proposed the same restoration of the monogram on the obverse, but the reverse text remained undeciphered. The border of pallets encircling the monograms gave her grounds to propose a dating in the VIIth-IXth centuries, and the fact that it was found in a medium dated by coins to the period 867-912 allowed her to narrow the chronological boundaries to the last quarter of the IXth century.

The monograms, the paleography of the letters (for example, the closed B) and the circle of pallets itself give me grounds to propose a dating into the XIIth century.

If we accept the restoration of the monograms as correct, questions arise about the identity and location of the monastery.

The first thought is to associate it with the church and palace by the same name in the capital. But the reserves stem from several directions: there is no information of the existence of a monastery by this name; the traditional and to a large degree anonymous monograms do not allow me to associate it with Blachernae in the capital; in cases when a position or a title is associated with it, they are complete and properly inscribed. For this reason it is necessary to think of other possibilities.

According to Janin (**Janin**, *Eglises*, p. 310), a monastery by the same name may have been located in Athens as well. The following documents give him grounds for this proposition:

1. A letter of Pope Innocent III dated 1209 to Sanctae Mariae de Blakernis monastery, which by no means can be associated with a monastery in the capital (*PL*, 215, col. 1560D).

2. In an inscription on a column at the Parthenon in Athens it is reported that ἁγιοτατως μητροπολίτης Ἀθηνῶν καὶ πρωτοσύγκελλος κύρος Ἰωάννης ὁ Βλαχερνίτης

died in November 1087 (see *Архим Антонинъ Надписяхъ*, с. 56, № 51). According to the same author the epithet Βλαχερνίτης means that John had previously been in service at the Blachernae church or more likely had taken the vows at Blachernae monastery in Peloponnesos.

The monastery Θεοτόκος τῆς Βλαχερντίσσης in Athens was attested by other documentary sources from later times.

Can the seal found in Pernik be associated with this monastery? It is not impossible the more so as letters of other individuals and prelates outside the capital Constantinople were also received in Pernik.

1654. Μονῆς τῆς Θεοτόκος τῆς Περίβλεπτος (second half of the XII c.)

Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 3104. Find-spot: on the south slope of the "Bunardzhik" hill in 1949. D. 34.5-36 (32) 3.5 mm, W. 20.75 g. Excellent state of preservation.

Ed. *Jordanov*, Plovdiv, no. 35.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne holding the medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΠΕΡΙΒΛΕΠ. | ΝΟΝΜΗΤΡΟ | ΠΑΡΘΕΝΕΣΚ. | - ΠΟΙC - | ~ο~

Περίβλεπ[τη]νὸν, Μητροπάρθενε, σκ[έ]ποις

This name is related to the Constantinopolitan monastery Θεοτόκος ἡ Περίβλεπτος. It was built by order of Emperor Romanos III Argyros (1028-1034), restored by Michael VIII Palaiologos (1261-1282) and functioned until 1452 (see *Janin*, *Eglises*, 227-231). There are known seals both of the church and monastery (see *Laurent*, *Corpus*, V. 2, nos 1174-1178) and of monks and higoumenos of the monastery (see *Laurent*, *Corpus*, V. 2, nos 1179-1181).

1655. Θεόδοτος ἡγούμενος (IX c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-23 mm. W. 13.50 g. Complete specimen in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription along border of dots: +ΚΕΡΟΗΘΙ. ΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΕΟ | ΔΟΥΤΥ | ΗΓΟΥΜ | ΕΝΟΥ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ε)ι [τ]ῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Θεοδότου ἡγουμένου

B. Dioceses and Monasteries in the Provinces

They are arranged in alphabetical order according to the places where the respective see or monastery was located.

1. Ἀβύδος

1656-1657. Νικόλαος Ἀβύδος (XIth century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14714. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-23 (19 ?) 5 mm. A partial and obtuse imprint.

Ed. *Jordanov*, *G. Names*, no. 1.2.

1657. RHM-Shumen, no. 15477/4. Find-spot: Uncertain (Preslav). Formerly in the collection of N. Nikolov from Razgrad (07. 07. 07) D. 13-25 (23 ?) 2.5 mm. W. 5.12 g. Fragment about a half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished.

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion

Parallels: Two other copies imprinted with the same boulloterion are kept in the collections of: DO 58.106.3589 (see *Nesbitt-Oikonomides*, *DOS*, 3, no. 40.39); Zacos, III, no. 1149 (the latter is unpublished).

Obv. Metrical inscription of five lines, preceded by an ornament:

~:- | CΦΡΑ | . ΙCΛΟΓ' | . . ΕΙ8C | Τ8ΝΙ . | - Λ8 -
| . ΦΡΑ | . . . ΛΟΓ' | . . ΕΙ8C | . . ΝΙΚ | - . . -

Rev. Metrical inscription of five lines, preceded by an ornament:

~:- | ΕΚΤΗC | ΑΡΥΔ8C | ΠΕΝΙΧΡ' | ΓΡΑΦΕ | ΩC
~:- | . ΚΤΗ . | . ΡΥΔ . . | . . ΝΙΧ . | ΓΡΑ . . | . .
Σφρα[γ]ις λόγ(ους) [κλ]είουσ(α) τοῦ Νι[κ(ο)]λ(ά)ου
ἐκ τῆς Ἀβύδους (καὶ) πενιχρ(οῦ) γραφews

2. Ἀγχιάλου

1658-1662. Θεόδωρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀγχιάλου (second half of the XI c.)

1658. RHM-Shumen, no. 15129. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 125. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 15-15 (13?) 4 mm. W. 4.56 g. The obverse is well-centered but in a poor state of preservation. The reverse is better preserved, but the imprint is made slightly off center. Some letters remained outside the blank.

Ed. *Jordanov*, *Zhekova*, no. 354.

Parallels: *Laurent*, *Corpus*, V, no. 854.

Obv. Inscription of four lines.

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΘΕΟΔΩ | Ρ

Rev. Inscription of three lines.

. ΡΧ . . | . ΙCΚΟΠ | . ΧΕΛ8

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ε)ι τῷ σῷ δ(ούλ)ω Θεοδώρ(ω) [ἀ]ρχ[ιεπ]ισκόπ(ω) [Ἀ]χελού

1659. RHM-Shumen, no. 15197. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 193. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D. 17-15 (13) 3.5 mm. W. 4.56 g. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 355.
No parallels known

1660. RHM-Shumen, no. 15142. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 138. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 15-15 (13) 4 mm. W. 3.80 g. Specimen in a poor state of preservation. The obverse is corroded. A portion chipped. The identification is on the basis of the above specimen.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 356.
No parallels known

1661. Historical Museum, Nessebar, no. 1823. Found in the dumped soil in the Old Town of Nessebar. D. 15-16 (13) 3 mm. W. 4.29 g. Off-centered imprint in a superb state of preservation.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.

1662. RHM-Shumen, no. 15485. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 208. Find-spot: Pomorie. D. 13.5-13.5 (?) 3 mm. W. 3.62 g. Once a good imprint. Now chipped and deformed. The reading is not problematic due to available parallels.
Unpublished.
No parallels known.
The four specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Inscription of three lines.
+APXH | . TPATH | ΓΕΡ'Θ'
. . . XH | . . . TH | . ΕΡ'Θ'
+APXH | . TPATH | ΓΕΡ'Θ'
+APXH | . PATH | . ΕΡ'Θ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines.
ΘΕΟΔΩ | ΡΟΑΡΧΙΕ | ΠΙΣΚΟΠΩ | ΑΧΕΛ'
ΘΕΟΔ . | . . ΑΡΧ . . | ΠΙΣΚΟΠΩ | ΑΧΕΛ'
ΘΕΟΔΩ | ΡΟΑΡΧΙΕ | ΠΙΣΚΟΠΩ | ΑΧΕΛ'
ΘΕΟ . . | ΡΟΑΡ . . . | ΠΙΣΚ . . . | ΑΧΕ . '
+ 'Αρχη[σ]τράτηγε β(οή)θ(ει) Θεοδώρο ἀρχιεπισκόπω 'Αχελ(οῦ)

The seal is dated generally to the XIth c. specifically to its second half. An archbishop by this name is unknown among the titulars in Anchialos. He maintained very active correspondence with unknown addressees in Anchialos, Mesembria and the fortress near the modern village of Melnitsa, Elhovo region (presumably his spiritual brothers in service there). He changed two boulloteria or two pairs of dies which suggests either active correspondence or a longer occupation of the see in Anchialos.

1663-1665. Νικηφόρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος 'Αγχιάλου (1070s-1090s)

A. ἀρχιεπίσκοπος 'Αγχιάλου καὶ ὁ τοῦ 'Αντιοχείας

1663. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28140. Find-spot: Sozopol. D. 19-24 (21) 2.5 mm. The imprint is partial. The last line of the text has remained outside the seal.
Ed. Йорданов, Анхиало, 37-38; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 2.2 A.

1663A. Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak) no. 258. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). D. 17-25 mm. Upper half of what was once an indistinct imprint.
Unpublished.
The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.
Parallels: There is another copy in the DO collection (DO. 58. 106. 1389) imprinted with the same couple of dies (see *Laurent, Corpus*, V.3, no. 1823; *Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS*, 1, no. 73.3).

Obv. St Michael standing en face and holding a labarum (r. hand) and a globe (l. hand).
Inscription in two columns: M-I || X-A .

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:
+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ. | ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡ . . | .ΑΡΧ.ΕΠ. | CΚΟΠΟCΑΓΧΙΑ|...ΩΤ8Α. |.....
+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | . . . ΩΔ8Λ. |ΦΟΡ.. | ΕΠ. | |
+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ[ω] Νικηφόρ[ει τῷ] ἀρχ[ι]επ[ι]σκοπος
'Αγχιά[λου τ]ῷ τοῦ 'Α[ντιοχείας]

B. πρόεδρος 'Αγχιάλου

1664. National Historical Museum, Sofia. Placed in the exposition. I have come across some contradiction in the information about its discovery. The initial publication pointed out that the copy originated in the ruins of the old city of Pernik (see *Laurent, Corpus*, V.3, 165-166. The information of the author was provided by Ms. Yuroukova). The same source of information told me that this is not true. The bulla belonged to a private person and the find-spot was unknown. D. 15.5-17 (13) 2 mm. A good imprint and a well-preserved specimen.
Ed. Laurent, Corpus, V.3, no. 1824; Йорданов, Анхиало, 37-38; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 2.2Ba.

1665. RHM-Shuemn, no. 13510. Purchased from Slavcho Nikolov Grozev from Shumen. Found in the region of Pomorie. D. 12-14 (13) 2 mm. W. 2.20 g. The imprint is relatively complete in spite of the small seal. The bulla is well-preserved.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 2.2Bb.
Both specimens have been imprinted with an identical boulloterion.
No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
a) + | ΑΓΧΙΑΛ' | Α'ΕΔΡΟΝ | ΩΠΡΟΤ . | CΤΑΤ'
b) + | ΑΛ' | . ΕΔΡΟΝ | . ΠΡΟΤΟ | . ΤΑΤ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:
a) CΚΕΠ' | ΜΙCΟΝΝΙ | . ΗΦΟΡ' | ΘΥΤ'
b) CΚΕΠ' | ΜΙCΟΝΝΙ | ΚΗΦΟΡ' | ΘΥΤ'
'Αγχιάλ(ου) (πρό)εδρον ὧ πρότόστατ(α)
σκεπ(οις) Μιχ(αήλ) Νικηφόρ(ον) θύτ(ην)

1666. Στέφανος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος 'Αγχιάλου (second half of the XI c.)

Private collection (Al. Peikov from Veliko Turnovo). Find-spot not precisely known, found somewhere between Aitos and Bourgas. D. 24-24.5 mm. Excellent well-preserved specimen.
Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 2.3
No parallels known.

Obv. St. Michael standing en face, holding a labarum (r. hand) and a globe (l. hand). No

titles.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. | . APXI. | ΠΙΣΚΟΠΟ | ΑΓΧΙΑΛΟΝ | ΤΕΦΑ . | . C
[+ 'O] ἀρχι[ε]πίσκοπο(ς) Ἀγχιάλου [Σ]τεφά[νο]ς

3. Ἀδριανούπολεως

1667-1667A. Νικόλαος μητροπολίτης Ἀδριανουπόλεως (970s)

1667. Private collection (Al. Peykov from Veliko Turnovo). A cast of the original was sent to me by my colleague K. Dochev. Later I examined the original in the collection of St. Bilik from Sofia. According to its first owner, Mr. Peykov, the bulla originated in Silistra. Size: 25-26 (18) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint. Entire fields of the dies have not appeared.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3.4.

1667A. RHM-Targovishte, no. 696. Find-spot: Preslav. D. 17.4-21(18) 2.6 mm. W. 4.63. Incomplete imprint. Entire fields of the dies have not appeared.
Unpublished.
Both specimens were struck in a same bulloterion
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a Gospel book (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-NI || K-O- Λ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines and followed by ornament:

+NIKO | Λ'MITPO | ΠΟΛ'Α . . | IAN . | ΠΟ .
+NI . . | Λ'MITPO | ΠΟΛ'ΑΔΡ | IANO | Π . .
+ Νικόλ(αος) μιτροπολ(ίτης) Ἀδριανο(υ)πό[λ(εως)]

1668. Γρηγόριος or Πανθεριος μητροπολίτης Ἀδριανουπόλεως (XI century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15110]. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 106. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 18-20 (18) 3 mm. W. 6.50 g. Weakly imprinted which makes its reading difficult. The completion of the homonym is somewhat uncertain.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *Melnitsa*, no. 14; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 3.5.
No parallels known.

Obv. In the centre of the image one can see part of a standing figure of the Virgin on a subpedaneum holding before her a medallion with a likeness of Child Christ. On both sides, there are partial figures of two standing saints (St. Peter and Paul) who are reaching out toward her hands. At the left of the Virgin one sees the letter κ perhaps from the name of St. Peter.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

.ΘΚ.. | ΟΗΘ'Γ... | ΟΡΙΩΜΗΤΡ. | .ΛΙΤΗΑΔ. | ..ΝΟΝΠ. | . ΕΩC
[+]Θ(εοτό)κ[ε β]οήθ(ει) Γ[ρηγ]ορίω or Π[ανθ]ερίω μητρ[οπο]λίτη
Ἀδ[ρια]νουπ[όλ]εως

If the reading of the first name as Γ[ρηγ]ορίω is correct, such a prelate of Adranopolis is unknown from the narrative sources. If we read Π[ανθ]ερίω, the metropolitan could be

the one attested in March 1072 (see **Oikonomides**, *Decret synodal*, 57, n.22; 60, 66).

1669. Seals of a metropolitan of Adrianopolis ? (XIth century)

Private collection (Zhelyazko Dimov, Burgas). My colleague Ivan Karayotov sent me a plaster impression of the same seal. Find-spot: district of Elhovo (village of Melnitsa). D. 19-20 (16) ? mm.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *Melnitsa*, no. 15; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3.6.
No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: \overline{MP} || \overline{OV} .

Rev. In the field above, a representation of the bust of Christ. Beneath it there are two standing saints, St. Paul on the left and St. Peter on the right. They are half-turned toward the bust of Christ above. Their hands are turned toward him. Vertical inscription between the two: Π-A-V-Λ- || Π- -T-P'

1670. Seals of a metropolitan of Adrianopolis ? (XIth century)

Private collection of Ivan Simeonov, Burgas. A plaster impression of this seal was given to me some twenty years ago by my colleague Kamen Dimitrov. Its find-spot was likely the same as the previous specimen. D. 17-18 mm.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *Melnitsa*, no. 16; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3.7.
No parallels known.

Obv. Standing figure of the Virgin, with a nimbus, maphorion and hymation, en face. It is impossible to discern the details of the representation and the inscription with an epithet.

Rev. In the field above probably the bust of Christ. Beneath it two standing saints (St. Paul and St. Peter). They are turned half-way toward Christ represented above. Their hands are turned toward him.

1671. Ευστάθιος μητροπολίτης Ἀδριανουπόλεως (XIIth century)

Private collection (a collector in Novi Pazar). It was offered for sale to the Historical Museum Shumen where it was documented. It was later returned to the owner because he did not agree to the purchase price offered. D 42-43 (32) 3 mm. A superbly preserved seal.
Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.3.8.
No parallels known.

Obv. St. Peter (l.) and St. Paul (r.) standing in profile; St. Peter with head raised toward a small bust of Christ in upper field; St. Peter holding a long cross (r. hand) and extending l. arm toward Christ, a gesture repeated by St. Paul, who holds a book (l. hand). Two vertical inscriptions between them: Θ-Π-Ε-T-P-O-C || Θ-Π-A-V-Λ-O-C : Ὁ ἄ(γιος) Πέτρος || Ὁ ἄ(γιος) Παῦλος

Rev. Inscription of six lines. There is a six-pointed star engraved in the field below the inscription:
ΕΝΨΑΘΙ | ΟΝΠΑΝΑΓΝΕ | ΚΑΙΜΝΨΑΙΛΟΓ8 | ΤΗCΑΔΡΙΑΝ8 |

ΤΟΝΘΥΤΗΝΚΕ | ΠΟΙΤΕΜΕ | - * -

Εὐστάθιον, Πανάγνε, καὶ μυσταὶ Λόγου τῆς Ἀδριανου τὸν θυτην, σκέποιτε,
με

1672. N., μητροπολίτης Ἀδριανουπόλεως ? (XII c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15111. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 107. Find-spot: Melnitsa. D. 24.5-25.5 (22 ?) 3.5 mm. W. 7.60 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint, which renders the reading difficult.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 525.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin standing frontally holding medallion of Christ before her. She is flanked by two saints. At l. no identifying inscription visible, probably St. Paul; at r. St. Peter accompanied by vertical inscription: Θ-Π-Ε-Τ-ΡΟ-С = Ὁ ἅγιος Πέτρος

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

..CX..|...VII..|...XH..|...ΕΙΤΑ.Ι|...CΕΝΤΑΘ|.ΟCΕΚCΑΚ|.Λ.ΙΩ
.....Εὐστά[θ]ιος ἐκ σακ[ε]λ(λ)ιω

The end of the text on the reverse and the iconography give us grounds to accept that this must be another seal of the metropolitan of Adrianopolis already known by his seal, see above no. 1671.

4. Ἀῖνιος

1673. Ἀνδρόνικος Ἀῖνιος (XIth-XIIth cen.)

RHM-Pernik, no. 939, field no. 787. Found during the excavations in the medieval settlement on the path in square XVIII/33 on 10th July 1974. D. 21-21(16) 2.5 mm. Well-centered but weak and incomplete imprint. The image of the Virgin on the obverse is only visible in outlines.

Ed. **Юркува, Перник**, с. 129, табл. IV.3; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no.5.1

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands raised before her. Sigla: M || Θ.

Rev. Metrical inscription of five lines:

...ΔΡ|.ΝΙΚ8ΔΕ|.ΠΟΙΝΑΤΟ|.Τ8ΑΙΝ'С|.ΠΟΙC
[+Ἀν]δρ[ο]νίκου Δέ[σ]ποινα τὸ[ν] τοῦ Ἀῖν(ου) σ[κ(έ)]ποις

Andronikos is an unknown prelate of Ainos. It is possible that he is identical with the nephew of the bishop of Ainos (ὁ τοῦ Ἀῖνου)

5. Ἀρκαδιούπολεως

1674. Στέφανος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀρκαδιουπόλεως (Xth-XIth c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 15030. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 24-26 (18) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Well-centred but weak imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов, Силистра**, II, № 13; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no.10.4.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).

Along dotted border circular inscription: ΝΙΚΩ....

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

СТΕΦ|.ΩΑΡΧΙ|.Π'СКОП|.КАΔΙΟ|.ΠΟΛΕΟ'
[+Ἀγίε] Νικώ[λαε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ] Στεφ[άν]ω ἀρχι[ε]π(ι)σκόπ(ω)
[Ἀρ]καδιο(υ)πόλεο(ς)

6. Ἀχριδός

An unidentified settlement in the Rhodopes Mountains southeast of Asenovgrad (Stenimachos). The name of this bishopric is not present in any diocese lists but it is included in the XIIth-XIIIth century sources. One cannot say to which metropolitan it was subservient but it is suggested that Achrida, Moreia and Philipopolis formed a single theme and the bishop of Achrida was subordinate to the Philipopolis metropolitan. The seals presented below are the only information for its existence.

Lit. **Laurent, Byzantion**, p. 617; **Idem, Corpus**, V,1, 522-523; **Овчаров, Стоименов, Перперикон**, 315-319:

1. Εὐσταθιος ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (see below)
2. Θεόδωρος ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (see below)
3. Θωμᾶς ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (X-XI c., see below)
4. Κωνσταντῖνος ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (XIth century) after a specimen from the collection of the MK in Vienna, no. 197, which probably originated from Istanbul (see **Laurent, Corpus**, V,1, no. 691).

The fact that the seals presented below having belonged to bishops of this diocese were discovered during archaeological excavations in Perpericon corroborates the assumption that the Achridos diocese was located precisely in this part of the Balkans.

1675-1676. Θωμᾶς ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχριδοῦ (X-XI c.)

1675. RHM-Kurdzhali, field no. 18. Found in Klisse Basha locality, square B5- building 2, on the 8th July 2002. D. 24-24 (18) 2 mm. Imprint smaller than the blank. Printed only in the centre along the channel.

Ed. **Овчаров, Стоименов, Перперикон**, № 1

1676. RHM-Kurdzhali, no. 5504. Found in Klisse Basha locality, Eastern dwellings, on the 7th August 2001. D. 25-25 (18) 2.5 mm. Half preserved. Poorly-preserved image. Dented.

Ed. **Овчаров, Стоименов, Перперикон**, № 2

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

The imprint of the first specimen is only partial while the second is almost completely obliterated. The illustrations in the publication are unsatisfactory, which does not allow us to confirm or rule out the proposed reading.

Obv. Patriarchal cross with fleurons on one (?) step. Around the image, some preserved letters from the circular inscription containing the invocation:

a.:ΘΙΤΩ.....

b.: ..R..... Δ8Λ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοή]θι τῷ [σῷ δ]ούλ[ω]

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

a. + - | . ΩΜΑ | . ΠΙC . | ΑΧΡ. . . | V

b. | Ε | | ΑΧΡΙΔΟ | V

- + - [Θ]ωμᾶ ἐπισ[κ](όπω) Ἀχρίδοῦ

1677. Θεόδωρος ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχρίδοῦ (XI-XII c.)

RHM-Kurdzhali, no. 5483. Found in Klisse Basha locality, square E⁴ to the east of the church, on 15th August 2001. D. 17-17(15)2 mm. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 13.1; *Овчаров, Стоименов*, Перперикон, № 3.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Stephanos holding a martyr's cross (r. hand). Inscription in two columns:

Θ-C-TE || Φ-AN-O: Ὁ (ἅγιος) Στέφανος.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΑΓΙΕ | CTEΦΑΝΕ | ROHΘ'ΘΕΟ | ΔΩΡΩΕΠ. | CΚΟΠΩ. | ΧΡΙ.

+ Ἀγιε Στέφανε βοήθ(ει) Θεοδώρῳ ἐπισκόπῳ [Ἀ]χρί[δοῦ]

1678-1679. Εὐσταθιος ἐπίσκοπος Ἀχρίδοῦ (X-XI c.)

1678. RHM-Kurdzhali, no. 5504, field no. 35. Found in Klisse Basha locality, Eastern dwellings, on the 3rd August 2001. D. 23/20/2 mm. Two halves. Not very good imprint.

Ed. *Овчаров, Стоименов*, Перперикон, № 4.

No parallels known.

1679. RHM-Kurdzhali, no. 5483. Found in Klisse Basha locality, square B¹⁰, on 9th July 2002. D. 23/20/2 mm. Struck over another bulla. Some blurred letters are visible from the understrike. *Obv.* CICI. *Rev.* . Ω. / NI /

Ed. *Овчаров, Стоименов*, Перперикон, № 5.

Both specimens come from the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-NI || K-O: Ὁ (ἅγιος) Νικό(λαος). Circular inscription around the depiction: + ΚΕΡΟΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔΟΝ' : + Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω)

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

1.+Ε. .ΤΑ | ΘΙΗ . ΠΙC | ΚΩΠΩΤ' | CΑΧ. . Δ | . ΟV

2.+Ε.CΤΑ | ΘΙΗΟΕΠΙC | ΚΩΠΩΤ' | CΑΧΡΙΔ | . ΟV .

+ Εφσταθικο ἐπισκωπῳ τ(ῆ)ς Ἀχρίδοῦ

+ Εὐσταθίῳ ἐπισκώπῳ τ(ῆ)ς Ἀχρίδοῦ

7. Βελεβουσδίου

1680. Ἰωάννης ἐπίσκοπος Βελεβουσδίου (second half of the XIIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 86. Discovered during excavations of Hisarluka near Kyustendil. D. 27-28.5 (25?) 3 mm. W. 15. 30 g. The imprint is incomplete. Almost all initial letters are missing. Dented. It was probably hit with a sharp object during its unearthing. The poor availability of some letters and especially these of the second line impede reading.

Ed. *Иванов, Й.* Разкопки на Хисарлъка до Кюстендил. - *ИБАД*, 7, 1919-1920, 112-113, обр. 93;

Laurent, Corpus, V.2, no. 1502; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 16.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Virgin Hagiosoritissa with a nimbus, chymation and maphorion is represented full-length en face with her head turned half-way to the left and hands lifted to God's hand represented on the left above. Titles: ΜΡ || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ | CΚΕΠΟΙCΜ. | ΨΙΚ8..INH8 | .ΠΑΡΘΕΝΕΡΕ | ΛΕΡΟVCΔΙ8ΠΟΙ | ΜΕΝΑΙΩΑ | NNHN

+ Σκέποις μ[υ]στικου Παρθένε Βελεβουσδίου ποιμένα Ἰωάννην

The fragmented text and the lack of information about this bishop of Belebouzdion prevent us from commenting.

8. Βελικίας

1681. Βασίλειος ἐπίσκοπος Βελικίας (Xth -XIth centuries)

RHM-Kurdzhali, no. 5492. Found in Perpericon in the dumped soil, sector I, on 2nd August 2001. D. 16/13/3 mm. Not very good imprint. There is thickening along the channel which damaged part of the letters.

Ed. *Овчаров, Стоименов*, Перперикон, № 6.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with medallion on her breast. Sigla:

ΜΡ || ΘV : Μή(τη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- + - | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | RACHΛΕΙΩ | . ΠΙCΚΟΠ' | ΡΕΛΗΚ' | - Α -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω Βασηλέῳ ἐπισκόπ(ω) Βεληκ(ί)α(ς)

1682. Στέφανος ἐπίσκοπος Βελικίας (Xth -XIth centuries)

RHM-Kurdzhali, no. 5490. Found in Klisse Basha locality, Eastern dwellings on 6th August 2001. D. 25/17/2 mm.

The imprint is smaller than the blank; as a result, a hollow was formed which damaged the obverse.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 17.2; *Овчаров, Стоименов*, Перперикон, № 7.

Parallels: another specimen imprinted with the same bulloterion is kept in the of Dumbarton Oaks Collection (DO. 58. 106. 137) and probably originates from Istanbul. See: *Laurent, Corpus*, V.1, no. 714; *Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS*, 1, no. 38.2.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin, hands raised before her breast. Title: .. || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of five lines, the final letter between two bars:

+ΘΚΕ | R'CTEΦ' | ΠICK' | REΛI | -K'-

+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θει Στεφ(άνω) ἐπίσκ(όπω) Βελικ(ίας)

9. Βερόης

1683-1684. Χριστοφόρος πρόεδρος Βερόης (XI-XII c.)

A.

1683. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 31916. Of unknown provenance. Among the seals which Emil Kosev collected and brought to Sofia for sale and later returned them to Vasil Vasilev. He did not give back the original ones but others of which V. Vasilev is not aware where they come from. The seals of V. Vasilev originated from the region of Bourgas. D. 20-25 (17) 3 mm. A well-preserved but incomplete imprint. The first letters of almost all lines have remained outside the blank.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.18.2A

No parallels are known.

Obv. The Virgin standing, facing, holding Christ in her l. arm. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}} \parallel \overline{\text{OV}}$. Rev. Inscription of five lines:

- + - | .PICTO | ..PONΠA | ..ΓNERE | POHCCKE | ΠOIC

+ [X]ριστο[φό]ρον Πά[να]γνε Βερόης σκέποις

B.

1684. Historical Museum, Yambol, no. 5467. Discovered on the land of the village of Maluk Izvor, district of Harmanli, in the Gradishteto area some 1-1.5 km north of the village. It was found by Hristin from Yambol. D. 19-20 mm. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.18.2B.

Parallels: **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.3, no. 1812; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 1, no. 64.2. Imprinted with a boulloterion identical to our specimen. Olga Bulgakova has informed me about another specimen, probably struck in the same boulloterion and discovered during archeological excavations in the Russian medieval town of Novgorod. She states that the seal is authentic and was found during excavations (see **Bulgakova**, no. 131). I have a more cautious opinion, because according to the same informant a seal of the Bulgarian patriarch Vissarion was also "found" in Novgorod (see : **Йорданов**, *Κορυς*, 129-131). From the description given to me I believe this is a contemporary forgery. I am also personally familiar with its engraver. It has recently become a practice to verify and legalize forged specimens supposedly "uncovered" during archeological digs.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne, holding medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}} \parallel \overline{\text{OV}}$.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΧΩΦΟΡΟΝ | ΠΑΝΑΓΝΕ | ΡΕΡΟHC | CΚΕΠOIC

Χ(ριστ)ωφόρον Πάναγνε Βερόης σκέποις

10. Βουλγαρίας

1685. Ήσαΐας ἐπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (IX c.).

Private collection (St. Bilik, Sofia). The owner bought it in the club of the Sofia Numismatic Society. The seller claimed that the specimen was from Shumen. Additional enquiries made it clear that it had been

discovered by Vasil Vasilev from Shumen. According to him, it had been found in the area of Smiadovo near a settlement with a basilica and necropolis from the IXth-Xth century, together with the seal of Michael, bagatour and kanartikin (on him, see **Йорданов** *Κορυς*, № 127). D. 23-26 (16) 2 mm. W. 8,45 g. Complete imprint with a double border of dots. The monogram on the obverse is composed of rather unsightly and crude letters. The Θ inscribed in center has a lozenge shape inside which are the arms of the cruciform monogram cross. The text on the reverse, according to the ascertainment of the original publisher, is composed of regularly shaped letters. The last two letters of the first line are damaged but nevertheless visible.

Ed. **Билик**, С. Моливдовул на неизвестен епископ на България от IX в. - *Проблеми на прабългарската история и археология*, 3, Шумен, 1997, 363-366; **Йорданов**, *Κορυς*, № 132; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no.19.3.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.8).

Rev. Inscription of four lines. A sign resembling a fleuron found on some IXth-Xth-century seals is inscribed after the last letter of the last line

+ ΗCΑΙΑ | ΕΠICKOΠ | OPOVΓA | PHAC

+ Ήσαΐα ἐπισκόπο Βουργαρίας

The original publication of the seal was by its possessor, S. Bilik. On the basis of the obverse image and the paleographic analysis of certain letters on the reverse he arrived at the conclusion that the dating of the seal must be in the period 820s-840s (**Билик**, Моливдовул, 363-366). The seal was included in the Corpus of medieval seals where I introduced some specifications and corrections. The dating I proposed was generally in the IXth c., preferably the middle of the century (**Йорданов**, *Κορυς*, c. 78).

As it might be expected, this sphragistic monument of great importance to the history of the Bulgarian church arose the interest of the investigators who offered their interpretations in the following two lines: the first proposed a new reading of the text (**Георгиев**, П. Моливдовулът от Смядово като исторически източник. - *Трудове на катедрите по История и Богословие към ШУ*, 6, 2004, 108-113), while the other attempted at shifting the dating of the seal to the late VIIIth or the early IXth centuries (**Николова**, Б. За Исая епископ на България" от един печат. - *Нумизматика, Сфрагистика и Епиграфика*, 3.2, 2007, 49-55).

I will begin commenting on Georgiev's new reading. According to him, there was a letter P outside the invocative formula in the upper part of the vertical arm of the cross on the obverse. It represented the diphthong ov and suggested that the name of the owner of the seal given in genitive was woven in the monogram. The author pointed out that the letter Θ in the centre of the monogram had inside its lozenge shape not only a horizontal bar but also a vertical one, thus allowing to be read not only as Θ, , O but also as Φ and Σ. As a result of this analysis Gerogiev reached the conclusion that the name of the owner Ήοσήφ was inscribed on the obverse (**Георгиев**, П. Моливдовулът, 108-113). Further on the author offered emendations in the reading of the text on the reverse. He separated the first three letters ΗCΑ from the owner's name ΗCΑΙΑ and translated them as "equivalent", "equal in value". He added A from the first line to the rank of Isaia and read ΗCΑΑ | ΕΠICKOΠ | OPOVΓA | PHAC: ἴσα ἀ(ρχι)ἐπισκόπο Βουργαρίας which is to mean 'equal in value', 'equivalent' to the archbishop of Bulgaria. His final conclusion was that the seal belonged to Joseph-Stephanos equal (equivalent) to the archbishop of Bulgaria who was at the head of the Bulgarian church just before the year 893 (**Георгиев**, Моливдовулът, 108-109). For the time being, I will only note that according to this restoration an extra letter I

from the name HCAIA remains from the first line of the inscription.

In addition to this conclusion, Georgiev assumed also the possibility that the seal belonged to Prince Boris himself. He restored the name ΒΟΡΗΣΟΥ from the monogram inscribed on the obverse (in this case too the letter K remained unused), while on the reverse he read ΗCΑΑ | ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠ | ΟΡΟΝΓΑ | ΡΗΑΣ: Ἰσα(πρωτο)επισκόπο Βουργαρίας, which means that the Bulgarian ruler was represented in his capacity as 'outside bishop' (Георгиев, Моливдовулът, 111-112).

I will not enter into further details of the commentary citing various written sources. The absurdity of the proposed interpretation is clear and we should go back to the seal itself.

As a beginning, it will be a good idea to recall a famous conclusion made by one of the greatest collectors of Byzantine seals G. Zacos who says that "at least 10,000 seals must pass through one's hands in order to become a sigillographer". He probably meant that it is only after one examines sufficiently large amount of material and establishes the rules that he should seek meanings beyond those generally accepted.

In the first volume of his collection G. Zacos published ca. 4,000 seals of which more than 1,500 contain cruciform invocative monograms (Zacos, *Seals*, I, nos. 1393-2671; 3007-3320). The addition τῷ σῷ δούλῳ is absent in the smaller portion of them (nos. 1393-1688; 3007-3068), while it is inscribed in the larger portion (nos. 1960-2671; 3071-3320, which are later as a rule). Among these more than a thousand and five hundred seals with cruciform invocative monogram there are also dozens containing the sign P in the upper part of the vertical arm, as in our case (Zacos, *Seals*, I, nos. 1406, 1413, 1417, 1487, 1514, 1662, 1691, 1738, 1763, 1781, 1943, 2036, 2117, 2127 and others which I will not enumerate due to lack of space).

The cruciform monograms in all those more than a thousand and five hundred seals are undoubtedly restored by specialists as Θεοτόκε or Κύριε βοήθει.

In no one of these more than a thousand and five hundred seals is the proper name of the owner of the seal included in the invocative monogram inscribed on the obverse. It is inscribed either in the four fields between the arms of the cruciform monogram, as in the seal of the caesar Tervel, or traditionally on the reverse of the seal.

And finally, a reminder regarding the name of Boris: we should bear in mind that after his baptism Boris took the name of Michael and precisely this name is represented on his ruler's seals. Why should he be represented with his old name on his church seal?

Clearly we should go back to the traditional reading of the text of this seal of Byzantine type and content and repeat that his owner was Isaia, bishop of Bulgaria. The monogram on the obverse is unsightly and perhaps mistaken but this does not give grounds for the readings proposed above.

Now let us go back to the dating of this seal and the possibility of attributing it to the period before the official conversion to Christianity in medieval Bulgaria.

The dating of seals of the Bulgarian church and generally of the Byzantine church constitutes a serious problem even when the owner of the seal can be identified with a person from narrative sources. Certain conservatism and archaism obviously exist in the iconography of the seal and in the paleography of certain letters.

Two factors should be taken into consideration when dating our seal: observations on its iconography and paleography, style and overall appearance and of course the historical rationalization of the text.

I must admit that when I first encountered this seal (in fact I was the person who

identified it and helped for the realization of Bilik's publication) I was impressed by the characteristics regarding its early dating. The cruciform monogram without the addition of τῷ σῷ δούλῳ, the lozenge-shaped Θ and its overall appearance pointed to a dating if not in the late VIIIth c at least in the first decades of the IXth c. My observations on the seals of the Constantinopolitan patriarchs of that time can be added to my former ascertainments. For example, a cruciform invocative monogram without the addition τῷ σῷ δούλῳ is represented on the obverse of the seal of Theodot I (815-821) (see Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 2). The same situation is observed with the seal of Anthony I (821-837) with this difference that a cross is engraved in the four quarters (Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 3). Already in the next and actually the last patriarch iconoclast John VII (837-843) exactly the same variant of invocative monogram as with ours is represented on the obverse with the only difference that the addition τῷ σῷ δούλῳ is inscribed in the four quarters (Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 4; here no. 1615).

Probably the evolution of the iconographic subject on the Byzantine seals from 815-843 can be traced through these examples. We need to recall here that these patriarchs were iconoclasts, and the cross of Golgotha or a cruciform invocative monogram instead of the images of Christ, the Virgin or Christian saints were obligatorily represented on the official state symbols such as coins and seals. However, as soon as the icon worship was restored under Patriarch Methodius I (843-847) the image of the Virgin Hodegetria appeared on the obverse of the patriarchal seals, which becomes a standing subject with the next patriarchs until nowadays. (Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 5).

Thus, the presence of the cruciform monogram or its replacement with the image of the Virgin or some other saint should be associated with the period of iconoclasm or icon worship and the dating of the seal of Isaia, bishop of Bulgaria, should not exceed the year 843.

Despite these observations, when I had to include this seal in the Corpus of Bulgarian seals and to position it in time, the only logical possibility to me was the time after the Conversion until the appearance in Bulgaria of the Latin mission, i.e. 864-866, when a bishop was at the head of the Bulgarian church.

Now that an acceptable hypothesis is offered to our attention for the existence of Christian communities in Bulgaria under the Bulgarian rulers Krum (803-814), Omurtag (814-831) and others and these communities must have had their bishop, in this case of Bulgaria, the dating of the seal of Isaia can be placed within the boundaries of the first decades of the IXth c. to which date the iconographic survey also points. The unsuccessful writing of Θ in the center of the cruciform monogram can be explained with the making of this seal specifically in Bulgaria.

1686-1699. Γεώργιος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (?-893).

The seals of this Bulgarian prelate are divided into two main groups:

A.

1686. Archaeological Museum of Sofia, no. 66. Discovered during excavations in Madara in buildings on the terrace under the so-called Daul Tash. D. 23-24 (18) 3 mm. A well-centred and well made imprint but the bulla is poorly preserved. Its upper part is holed and it probably hung from a document or was worn as an icon or medallion. When it was pulled, the opening was torn and the first two lines of its inscription were damaged.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 133; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Aa.

1687. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 70. Discovered on 13th May 1975 during excavations of the Great Basilica in Pliska, sector North, q. 162, depth 0,70 m. D. 21,5-22,5 (18) 3,5 mm. A very good imprint and a well-preserved bulla.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 134; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ab.

1688. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 71. Discovered on 12th May 1975 during excavations of the Great Basilica in Pliska, sector North, q. 179, depth 0,80 m. D. 19,8-22,5 (18) 3 mm. It was probably a good imprint in the past but now the bulla is poorly preserved. It was broken in two parts which were stuck together during the conservation.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 135; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ac.

1689. Archaeological Museum, Pliska. Discovered in the summer of 1990 in Pliska in the area of the Great Basilica or, to be more precise, 35 m east of the northeastern corner of the monastery fence. D. 20-20 (18) 3-4 mm. Weight: 9,5 g. Incomplete imprint. Made a little upward, owing to which parts of the inscription on the reverse and obverse have remained outside the blank.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 136; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ad.

1690. Place of storage and origin unknown. According to information from Vl. Penchev from the National Historical Museum in Sofia, a bulla of this dignitary was offered in 1990 to the evaluation committee of his museum but after a dispute about the price its owner retracted it.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 137; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ae.

1691. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). Find-spot: unknown, generally from Pliska-Preslav. D. 25-25 (18) 3 mm. A well-centred and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 140; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Af.

1692. A bulla of George, archbishop of Bulgaria, was sold at the auction of Dieter Gorny GmbH, Munchen, 96, 7. Juni 1999 under no. 704. D. 23 mm, 8.62 g.

Ed. Dieter Gorny GmbH, Munchen, 96, 7. Juni 1999, no. 704; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ag.

1693. Private collection (V. Pantelev, Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 13-23 mm. Half of the specimen is missing.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ah.

1694. Private collection (M. Gospodinov, Shumen). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-23 (20) 3 mm. A well-centred and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ai.

1695. RHM-Shumen, no. 15034. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 20-22 (20) 3 mm. W. 10.40 g. Well-centered imprint, but weak on the obverse.

Ed. *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 76

1696. RHM-Shumen, no. 15083. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 22-23 (19) 3 mm. W. 7.96 g. Slightly off-centered imprint. The rev. is in a better state of preservation.

Ed. *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 76

1697. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 104a. Found during archaeological excavations at the place of the base at the Museum in September 2007. D. 22-22 (19) 4 mm. Complete specimen in good state of preservation.

Ed. Георгиев, П. Димитров, Я. Иванов, С. Василев, Р. Аварийно-спасителни разкопки на строежа на "База на НАИМ" в Плискал-АОР, 2007, 597-600, обр. 3.

All twelve specimens were struck in the same bulloterion.

Parallels: Other two specimens are kept in the collections of the Athens Museum of Numismatics (*Konstantopoulos, Stamuly*, no. 77) and the Fogg Art Museum, no. 5 (*Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS*, 1.

no. 29.5.)

B.

1698. Private collection (G. Gulubov, Sofia). Probably originated from Pliska. D. 29-29 (24) 5 mm. Weight: 17,05 g. A masterfully-centred imprint. The border of the blank was additionally cut with a sharp knife in order to receive a correct round form.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 141; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Ba.

1699. Private collection (N. Nikolov, Razgrad). According to its owner, it was discovered on the bank of the dam near the village of Ovcharovo, Turgovishte region, where in fact the northern wall of the fortress was situated. Size: 27-29,5 (26) 4 mm. The imprint was good in the past, although some letters have remained outside the blank, but later it was heavily damaged.

Ed. Йорданов, *Корпус*, № 142; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.4 Bb.

Parallels: A third specimen imprinted with the same bulloterion was found at Castel Hill near Zalavar in Hungary. See *Paradisum plantavit. Benedectine Monasteries in Medieval Hungary*. Exhibition at the Benedictine Archabbey of Panonhalma, 21 March-11 November 2001, ed. by **Takacs Imre**. Panonhalma, 2001, p. 61; **Йорданов, И.** Печат на Плисковския архиепископ Георги (886-889), намерен в столицата на Коцел! - *Преславска книжовна школа*, 9, 2006, 362-368.

Obv. The Virgin standing frontally, holding Christ in her l. arm. No sigla. Circular inscription along the dotted border: +ΘΕΤΟΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΓΕΩ | ΡΓΙΩΑΡΧ | ΗΕΠΙCΚΟ | ΠΩΡΟΝΛ | ΓΑΡΙАС

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Γεωργίῳ ἀρχιεπισκόπῳ Βουλγαρίας

1700. Ἰωάννης μοναχὸς καὶ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (second half of the XIth c.)

Private collection. I learnt about it from Al. Peykov from Veliko Turnovo. The bulla was found somewhere in the district of Haskovo. D. 25-26 mm.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.5.

Parallels: Three specimens are kept in the collection of Dumbarton Oaks (DO.58.106.5308; Fogg 1053; DO.55.1.4701). They probably originate from Istanbul. A fourth copy was offered at Auction Hirsch (Munchen, 186, 10-12. 05. 1995, no. 1642). Dr Peter Prohaska from the National Historical Museum in Budapest informed me about a fifth specimen found in Esztergom. I wonder whether this may be a case of legalizing of a find from Bulgaria on its way to Europe.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a high-backed throne with a round cushion, holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ'| ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'|ΙΩΜΟΝΑΧ'|SΑΡΧΙΕΠΙC|ΚΠΩΠΑCΗ'|Ρ8ΛΓΑΡ'

+Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Ἰω(άννη) μοναχ(ῷ) (καὶ)

ἀρχιεπισκ(ό)πῳ πάση(ς) Βουλγαρ(ίας)

1701. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (second half of the XIIth c.)

Private collection (I. Yotov from Yambol). Uncertain provenance but it is suggested that it comes from southeastern Bulgaria. D. of the fragment 16-34 mm, which is smaller than a quarter of a formerly brilliant imprint.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 19.6.

Parallels: *Zacos, Seals*, II, no. 410. Imprinted with the same bulloterion as our specimen.

Obv. Part of the Annunciation scene. Part of the figure of Archangel Gabriel who approaches the Virgin seated on a throne.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

.| ...ΛΕΩ | ...ΕΠΙC | ...CHC | ...AC | ...HC | ... | ...
[+ Κων(σταντῖνος) ἐ]λέω [Θ(εο)ῦ ἀρχι]επί[κοπος πά]σης [Βουλγαρί]ας
[ἦτοι πρώτ]ης [Ἰουστινιανῆς]

1702. Γρηγόριος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βουλγαρίας (XIVth century)

Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv, no. 583. The inventory book notes that it was found in Ochrid but bought in Thessalonike and became property of the Plovdiv Archaeological Museum in 1914. D. 41-43 (35) 5.5 mm. Probably it was a good imprint in the past but it is now in a pitiful state. It has almost degenerated because of corrosion.

Ed. There are some inaccuracies in the various publications: **Иванов**, *БСМ*, c. 37, № 6; **Petrovic**, *J. Olovni pecat Grugura nadbiskupa Justiniane prime i ciele Bugarske*.- *Glasnik Hrvatskih zemaljskih muzeja*, 1941, 25-29; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.2, no. 1498 [he notes that it was part of the Petrovic collection in Zagreb and is now in the Archaeological Museum in Sofia, which is clearly wrong]. *Ed. Jordanov*, *G. Names*, no. 19.7.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Annunciation. The left half shows the figure of Archangel Michael in half-face and turned to the left. He has a nimbus and wings which barely touch the ground. With his left hand he holds a sceptre on his shoulder and he extends his right one as a sign of greeting to the Virgin, who occupies the right half of the seal. She is turned half way to the right and sits on a throne. The whole image is surrounded by a dotted circle.

Rev. Inscription of seven lines:

+ ΓΡΗΓΟ | ΡΙΟCΕΛΕΩΘῶ | ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙCΚΟΠ | ΟCΤΗCΠΡΩΤΗC | ΙCΤΙΝΙΑΝΗC |
ΚΑΙΠΑCΗCΒ | 8ΑΓΑΡ'
+ Γρηγόριος ἐλέω Θ(εο)ῦ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος τῆς πρώτης Ἰουστινιανῆς καὶ
πάσης Βουλγ(αρίας)

11. Βρύσεως

1703. Νικηφόρος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Βρύσεως (Xth-XIth centuries)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22187. D. 19-22 (16)2.1 mm. W. 5.90 g. Unsuccessful imprint, parts of the blank are missing. The bulla was perforated with corrosion.

Ed. **Йорданов**, *Преслав*, № 387; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 20.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.10); in the quarter: ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-Λ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+..ΚΙ | Φ..ΟΑ. | ΧΙΕΠΙC. | .ΠΟΡΡ. | CΕΟ'
+Θ(εοτόκ)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ[ω Νι]κιφ[όρ]ο ἀ[ρ]χιεπισ[κό]πο Βρ[ύ]σεο(ς)

12. Γαγγρῶν

1704. Μιχαήλ ὁ τοῦ Γαγγρῶν (XII c.)

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 23-28 (20) 4.1 mm. W.16.00 g. Superb imprint, a tiny portion cut not damaging the text. On the reverse, the accents above the lines are also written out.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *F. Names*, no.130

No parallels known

Obv. Metrical inscription of three lines:

+| CΦΡΑ | ΓΙCMI | ΧΑΗΛ

Rev. Metrical inscription of three lines:

ΤΟV | ΤΟVΓΑ | ΓΓΡΩN | - ο -

+Σφραγὶς Μιχαήλ τοῦ τοῦ Γαγγρῶν

The definite article ὁ τοῦ defines Michael as a nephew of the metropolitan of Gangra in Paphlagonia. Who was this metropolitan? Why should his nephew make himself known through him? These remain open questions. On this metropolitan bishopric, see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, p.318; **McGeer-Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 4, 48-49.

It is an interesting coincidence that at an earlier period (VII-VIII c.) a certain Constantine made himself known as the son of John priest of Gangra, see **McGeer-Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 4, no. 17.3.

The present seal dates generally from the XIIth c, from which time John metropolitan of Gangra present at the patriarchal synod in 1166 is known (see **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V, 2, no. 1594; **McGeer-Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, *DOS*, 4, no. 17.1).

13. Γάνος

1705. Θεοδῶρητος πρῶτος τοῦ Γάνου (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14859. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-30 mm, W. 16.36 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *Zhekova*, no. 358.

Parallels : Further two specimens are known struck in the same boulloterion: Vienna (MK, no. 64) see **Mordtmann**, *EPhS*, XIII, 1878, 92-93; **Schlumberger**, *Sig.*, p.118 and 409; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.2, no. 1230. **Zacos**, *Seals*, II, no. 744.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist blessing (r. hand) and holding a long cross (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ-ΙΩ-Ο || Π-ΔΡ-.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ..ΟΔΩΡΗ | ..Α'Τ8ΟΡ' | 8ΓΑΝ8 | - -

[+]**Κ**(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) [Θε]οδωρή[τ(ω) (καὶ)] (πρώτῳ) τοῦ ὄρ(ους) [τ]οῦ Γάνου

Due to the poor state of preservation of the Vienna specimen, its publishers accept that it refers to Θεοδωρ(ω) ἡγ(ουμένω) (καὶ)] (πρώτῳ) τοῦ ὄρ(ους) τοῦ Γάνου. The superbly-preserved specimen from the Zacos collection corroborates with certainty the reading proposed above.

The monastic center of Ganos is situated north of the Propontis and is attested from the tenth to the fourteenth century. It was composed of several monasteries and, like Mount

Athos, was administrated by a protos attested as early as the eleventh century (see **Laurent, Corpus**, V.2, p. 152; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides**, p. 133).

14. Δαφνί

1706. Ἡ Θεοτόκος ὁ Δαφνί (XI-XII c.)

Private collection (V. Pantelev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 15-15 (14.5) 4 mm. D. 4.7 g. Despite its small size, the core is well formed and the seal is almost complete, and the lines of the text are underlined, something rarely encountered in practice.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no.21.1.

Parallels: Other five specimens from the same boulloterion are kept in Vienna, no. 93; Athens, nos. 183 and 183a; Dumbarton Oaks (DO. 58.106. 5216 and 55.1.5056). See: **Laurent, Corpus**, V, 2, no. 1244; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS**, 2, no.11.1.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ before her. On either side titles:

Μ || Θ. Border of dots:

Rev. Inscription of three lines, a cross above and a decoration below:

- + - | ΗΘΚΟC | ΤΟΔΑ | ΦΝΙΝ

+ Ἡ Θεοτόκος τὸ Δαφνί

It would be interesting to learn to whom the correspondence from the Daphni monastery and church was sent in northeastern Bulgaria at the time.

15. Δεβελτός

1707-1708. Κωνσταντῖνος ἐπίσκοπος Δεβελτοῦ (X-XI c.)

1707. RHM-Shumen, no. 14894. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-18 (18) 3 mm. W. 6.10 g. Incomplete specimen in a good state of preservation. The blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies.

Ed. **Йорданов, Деветт [Addenda]**, c. 235; **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 359.

1708. RHM-Shumen, no. 15141. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 137. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 16-18 (18) 3.1 mm. W. 6.04 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation. The blank was smaller than the diameter of the dies.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 360.

The Two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the collection of the museum in Istanbul, no. 429. See **Laurent, Corpus**, V.1, no. 723. Our specimens are better preserved and allow for a more secure reading of the text.

Obv. Inscription of four lines.

ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΩCΩΔ8' | .ΩNCTA | .TINΩ

ΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΩCΩΔ8' | .ΩNCT. | .TIN.

Rev. Inscription of three lines.

- ÷ - | .ΠHC | . . ΠΟΔΕ | . . ΛΤ8

| . . HC | .ΟΠΟΔ. | . ΕΛΤ.

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) [τ]ῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) [Κ]ωνστα[ν]τίνῳ [ἐ]πισ[κ]όπο

Δε[β]ελτοῦ

16. Δρίστρας

1709-1710. Λέοντιος μοναχός καὶ ἐπίσκοπος Δρίστρας (50s of the XI century)

1709. RHM-Silistra, no.83. Found in 1988 during excavations of the medieval Dristra in the successive buildings along the northern fortress wall. At depth 14.19 m and at 1.85 m east of building 7. D. 29-31.2 (27) 2.1 mm. The engraving of the dies is of high quality. The imprint itself is very successful and the relief is clear and high.

Ed. **Йорданов, Архиепери на Дръстър**, 163-168; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 23.9a.

1710. Private collection. A cast of it was sent to me by my colleague K. Velkov from Nova Zagora. The original was discovered in the vicinity of the village of Boyadzhik, region of Yambol. D.28-30 (27) 3 mm. W. 21.06 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no.23.9b

Both specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin facing, holding Christ in l. arm. Sigla : \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$. Circular inscription along border of dots: +ΘΚΕΡΟΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔ8Λ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines preceded and followed by an ornament:

- ✕ - | +ΛΕΩΝ | ΤΙΩΑΧ'S | ΕΠΙCΚΟΠ' | ΔΡ.CTP' | .

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Λεωντίῳ (μον)αχ(ῷ) (καὶ) ἐπισκόπ(ῳ)

Δρ[ί]στρ(ας)

1711-1715. Χριστοφόρος μητροπολίτης Δρίστρας καὶ πρωτοσύγκελλος (80s of the XI century)

1711. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 22436. Discovered in 1984 during excavations of the Preslav archbishopric south of the Palace Basilica. D. 19-20 (22?) 2 mm. Thickness above the relief 4 mm. Unsuccessful imprint. The blank was smaller than the size of the dies, as a result the inscription remained outside it.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 23.10a.

1712. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 13142. Originates from Silistra. D. 19-20 (22) 3 mm. In this case too the imprint is incomplete. The relief of the image is worn, as well as the letters.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 23.10b.

1713. RHM-Burgas. Originates from Pomorie. D. 19-22 (22) 4 mm. The imprint and especially the inscription is incomplete. The bulla itself is in a better condition than the former one but it is holed twice.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 23.10c.

1714. RHM-Silistra. Discovered on the bank of the Danube. D. 20-21 (?) 3 mm. Poorly preserved specimen, in which the images and the text could hardly be identified.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 23.10d.

1715. RHM-Shumen, no. 14858. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain

(Preslav). D. 21-22 (?) 2.5 mm. W. 5.62 g. Poorly preserved specimen, in which the images and the text could hardly be identified.

Ed. **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 23.10e.

The five specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Circular inscription between border of dots:

- a) . . . Θ'ΧΡΥΣΤΟΦ
- b) ΟΦΟ
- c) . . . ΕΡ'Θ'Χ . . . C . . . ΦΟΡ'ΜΡΟ
- d) Ο Ρ'

In the centre the Virgin seated on a backless throne, holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: $\overline{MP} \parallel \overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Circular inscription between a border of dots:

- a) ΡΑCΣΑ'CVΓΚΕ
- b) . . . ΠΙ ΕΛΛΩ
- c) . . . ΠΙC VΓΚΕΛΛΩ
- d)

[+ [Θ(εοτό)κ]ε β(οή)θ(ει) Χρυστοφόρ(ω) μ(ητ)ρο(πολίτη) [Δ]ρίσ(τ)ρας (καί) (πρωτο)συγκελλ(ω)]

In the centre is a bust of St. Symeon who holds the Child Jesus (Χρυστοφόρος) with a nimbus, chymation, long hair, beard and moustaches en face with his head turned to the left. On the right he holds the Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes. There is a nimbus over the head of the latter. On both sides of the composition, vertical lines: \odot -C-V \parallel M-ΕΩ-N.

It is noteworthy that the embossed image of the Virgin is high and it stands out over the rest.

17. Εφέσος

1716A. Φιλούμενος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἐφέσου (VII-VIII c.)

Private collection Find-spot: uncertain (southeastern Bulgaria). D. 30-31 (26) 3.4 mm. W. 26.22 g. Complete and well-centered imprint, but the surface on the obverse is damaged.

Ed. **Кънев**, *Н. Новооткрит оловен печат на архиепископ на Ефес.- Сборник с материали от Международна научна конференция "ВТУ "Св. св. Кирил и Методий" и българската археология"*, Велико Търново, 27-29 ноември 2008", В. Търново, 2009 (in press).

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the collection of Dr. D. Theodoridis, no. 63, see **Wassiliou**, *A.-K. Neue Metropolen- und bischofssiegel aus Kleinasien und der Östlichen Ägäis.- SBS*, 8, 2003, 114-115, no. 2.

Obv. Bust of the evangelist John with short beard and hair, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). At either side, vertical inscription: + Ε-Φ-Ε \parallel + C-O-V : Ἐφέσου

Rev. Inscription of five lines.

+ΦΙΛ | ΟΥΜΕΝ | ΟΥΑΡΧΙΕ | ΠΙCΚΟΠ | ΟΥ +
+ Φιλουμένου ἀρχιεπισκόπου

For more information on the identification of the owner of this seal, see in the cited publication.

Unfortunately, the place where this correspondence was received in the late VII and the

early VIIIth c. is unknown. The specimen in Theodoridis collection probably also originates from Bulgaria, like most of the seals in it!

1716. Θεοφύλακτος σύγκελος καὶ μητροπολίτης Ἐφέσου (second half of the XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-22.5 (over 22) 3 mm. Incomplete imprint with obliterated parts of the depiction and letters of the text. Holed at r. of the image of the Virgin. Many of the letters from the circular inscription remained outside the blank.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, no. 249.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne, holding medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: $\overline{\Theta V}$. Between two borders of dots circular inscription beginning at top: +C8ΠΟΙ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | .ΕΟΦVΛΛΑ | . . . VΝΓΕ | . . . ΜΡΟΠΟ | . ΗΤ'Ε . .

[+] Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) [Θ]εοφυλά[κτω σ]υνγε[λω (καί)] μ(ητ)ροπο[λ]ήτ(η) Ἐ[φέσου]

The incomplete and poorly preserved imprint renders the reading uncertain. There is no illustration of the cited parallel so it is difficult to be absolutely certain. The see is also uncertain. After the first letter E the second is blurred but it will be hard to identify it with Φ. The third also looks like Ε.

18. Εὐθυμίου τοῦ Μεγάλου

1717. Τῆς λαύρας τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐθυμίου τοῦ Μεγάλου (XII c.)

National Historical Museum, Bucharest. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 24-25 (21) ? mm. Good imprint and well-preserved bulla.

Ed. **Banescu**, *O Colectie*, no. 7.; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 29.1.

Parallels: Two other specimens, printed with the same boulloterion, are kept in the collection of IFEB, no. 1183 (see **Schlumberger**, *Monuments byzantins*, p. 568, no. 18; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.3, no. 1581.) and **Zacos** (*Seals*, II, no. 462)

Obv. Bust of St. Euthymios with a long beard; wears a chymation and holds a cross in r. hand. Vertical inscription in two columns: \odot - ΕV-ΘV \parallel M-I-OC.

Rev. Metrical inscription of four lines:

+ | CΦΡΑΓΙC | ΤΟΥΜΕΓΑ | ΛΟΝΕΝΘV | ΜΙΟΥ
+ Σφραγίς τοῦ Μεγάλου Εὐθυμίου

19. Εὐχαΐτα

1718. Φιλόθεως σύγκελλος καὶ μητροπολίτης Εὐχαΐτων (70s of the Xth century)

RHM-Silistra, no 9. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 17-18 (17) 1.5 mm. Once it was a good and complete imprint but

later it was cut around the periphery and the ensuing form is more rhombus-like than circular. The images are not damaged.

Ed. Йорданов, И. Печат на Филотей, синкел и митрополит на Евхаита, ръководител на дипломатически мисии в България.- *Приноси към българската археология*, I, С., 1992, 120-25; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 30.1.

Parallels: *Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS*, 4, 16.7.

Obv. Bust of St. Theodore the Tyron holding a martyr's cross in front of his chest. Vertical inscription on either side: ☉ || Θ-Ε-Ο-Δ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines followed by a decoration :

+ΦΙΛ. | ΘΕ'ΜΗΤ.. | ΠΟΛΕΙ'ΕΝ. | ΑΤΩΝΣΚ. | ΚΕΛ. |

+Φιλ[ό]θε(ως) μητ[ρο]πολεί(της) Εὐ[χ]αίτον καὶ σ[ύ]κελ[ο(ς)]

20. Θεοβουλεία

1719-1720. Νικόλαος ἐπίσκοπος Θεοβουλεία (second half of the IXth century)

1719. Archaeological Museum, Pliska, no. 323. Discovered on 12th May 1974 during regular archeological excavations of Great Basilica site in Pliska, northern sector, sq. 124, depth 0,60 m. D. 25-26 (22?) 2 mm. The blank is thin. The imprint is well centred but still rather shallow and unclear. The reverse and obverse of the dies are identical, as is the case with coins. The surface of the bulla is poreous and slightly destroyed by corrosion.

Ed. Йорданов, *Копия*, № 149; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 32.1a.

1720. Private collection. According to my colleague V. Yotov another copy, probably imprinted with the same die, was offered for purchase to the Historical Museum in Dobrich, but after disagreement about the price it was returned to its owner. I have unproven evidence that it was discovered in the region of Shumen.

Ed. Йорданов, *Копия*, № 150; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 32.1b.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding the book of Gospel (l. hand).

Circular inscription along the border of dots: + ΑΓ'ΝΙΚΩΛ'Β'Τ'ΔΟ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines. In the field above and below, tendril ornaments:

ΝΙΚΟΛΑΩ | ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩ | ΘΕΟΒΟΥ | ΔΕΙΑC

+ Ἀγ(ι)ε Νικώλ(αι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δο(ύλῳ) Νικόλαω ἐπισκόπῳ

Θεοβουλείας

21. Θετταλῶν

1721. Λέων Ἰταλιώτης θύτης Θετταλῶν (XII century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15107. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 103. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 22-26 (23) 4 mm. W. 10.14 g. Incomplete imprint with indistinct letters which renders the reading difficult.

Ed. *Jordanov, Zhekova*, no. 362.

No parallels known.

Obv. The lower half of a standing figure holding a scepter in the r. hand.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.. ΤΑΛΙ ... | . ONTATONΘ . | . ΝΜΕΘΕΤ . | . ΛΩΝCΚΕ | ΠΟΙC

[+ Ἰ]ταλι[ώτ(ης) Λέ]οντα τὸν θ[ύτῃ]ν με Θετ[ταλῶν] σκέποις

Of course, the proposed reading is only one variant. A metropolitan of Thessalonike by this name is unknown.

22. Ἰωαννουπόλεως

1722-1724. Στέφανος μητροπολίτης Ἰωαννουπόλεως (the 70s of the X century)

1722. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 17252. Find-spot: strategia of Preslav. D. 20.5-23 (21) 2.1 mm. W. 5.70 g. Good imprint on a thin blank which is still incomplete. Some letters are missing.

Ed. Йорданов, *Преслав*, № 389; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 38.4a

1723. RHM-Shumen, no. 1212/b. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 12-23 (21) 2 mm. W. 2.23 g. Half of a previously good imprint.

Ed. Йорданов, *Плиска*, № 30; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 38.4b

1724. Archaeological Museum, Preslav. Found during excavations of the Palace Church site in square 52/53, on the boundary between the two squares, to the north of the tiled path, at a depth of 0.10 m, that is almost on the surface. The specimen is in a good state of preservation. D. of the blank 23.5-28.5 mm and of the seal 23 mm and thickness 4 mm. The imprint itself was complete and well-centered, but what is more interesting is that it was struck over another bulla of which certain letters are visible.

The image on the obverse of the understrike cannot be determined since no traces are visible. Obviously it is completely covered by the overstrike. However there are preserved letters of three lines on the reverse. The matrix was larger in diameter since the letters begin outside the field of the overstrike and end in its other end. It was made slantingly and the following letters can be read from it:

.....| ΚΟC H | NT | ΕΝ

Unpublished.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons arising from base. In the field between the arms a cross is engraved. Circular inscription along border of dots:

+ΚΕΡΟΗ ΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟ..

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

A + CTE | ΦΑΝ'ΘΕΟΦ | ΛΕCΤ'Τ'ΜΗ | ΤΡΟΠ'Λ'ΙΩ | ΑΝ8ΠΟΛ | . ΩC

B + CT . | ΦΑΝ' | ΛΕCΤ' | . ΡΟ | . Ν |

C + CTE | ΦΑΝ'ΘΕΟΦ | ΛΕCΤ'Τ'ΜΗ | ΤΡΟΠ'Λ'ΙΩ | ΑΝ8ΠΟΛ | . ΩC

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δοῦλ(ῳ)ῇ Στεφάν(ῳ) θεοφ(ι)λεστ(ά)τ(ῳ)

μητροπ(ο)λ(ίτη) Ἰωαννουπόλῃεῳ

23. Κουτζιάγρων

1725. Στυλιανός ἐπίσκοπος Κουτζιάγρων (early Xth century)

Private collection. Unknown origin. D. 24-24 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.

Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 42.1

No known parallels.

Obv. St. Michael represented as a soldier en face. Circular inscription along border of dots:
+MIX EI...TΩCΩΔ8ΛΩ
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+CTV | ΛΙΑΝΩΕ | ΠΙCΚΟΠ' | ΚΟΝΤΖΙ | ΑΓΡΟΝ
+Μιχ[αήλ τα]ζι[ζάρχα] τῷ σῶ δούλῳ Στυλιανῷ ἐπισκόπ(ω) Κουτζιάγρων

24. Κυρικῶν

1726-1727. Λέων μαῖστωρ τῆς σχολῆ τῶν κηρύκων (XIth century)

1726. RHM-Pernik, no. 1618. Found in the stronghold near the present-day town of Pernik. D. 19-21 (15) 3.5 mm. A well-centered copy although parts of the die are missing.
Ed. Юркува, Перник, II, 128-129; *Laurent, Corpus*, II, no. 1182; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 43.1a.

1727. RHM-Shumen, no. 14662. Found by a treasure-hunter with a metal detector in the stronghold near Dobri dol. D. 17-17 (13) 3 mm. Weak imprint, poorly preserved, broken in two parts and glued together by its finder.
Ed. *Jordanov*, Dobri dol, no. 13; *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 43.1b.
The two lead seals were struck in different boulleteria or with a different pair of dies.
No parallels known.

1726)

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
+ | ΛΕΩΝΜΙ | ΤΩΡΤΗC | CΧΟΛΗ | C

Rev. Inscription of three lines:
ΤΩΝ | ΚΗΡΥ | ΚΩΝ
Λέων μῖστωρ τῆς σχολῆς τῶν κηρύκων

1727)

Obv. Inscription of four lines:
ΛΕΩ . | ΜΑ. | ΤΩΡ | ΤΗC |

Rev. Inscription of three lines:
+ | CΧΟΛΗC | Τ. | ΚΗΡΥ | ΚΩΝ
Λέω[v] μα[ί]στωρ τῆς σχολῆς τ[ῶν] κηρύκων

25. Κωνσταντείας

1728-1729. Ν., πρόεδρος Κωνσταντείας (XIth-XIIth century)

1728. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 30442. Before that it was owned by D. Dimitrov from Pernik. It was found in the Asara locality near the town of Simeonovgrad where the ancient Constantia is located. D. 19.19 (15) 2.5 mm. Good imprint and well-preserved specimen.
Ed. *Jordanov, G. Names*, no. 44.1.

1729. Private collection (W. Seibt from Vienna, no. 416, from Gorny & Mosch, Sale 156, 6.3.2007, no. 2541. Find-spot: uncertain (Southern Bulgaria). D. 20-20 mm. Complete and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. *Seibt*, *Byzantine sigillography and Bulgaria*, fig. 2
Both seals are from one and the same matrix.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ in her l. arm. Sigla: Μ || Θ.
Rev. Metrical inscription of five lines, with a cross at the top:
+ | ΚΩΝΤΑ . | ΤΕΑΣΠΡ . | ΕΔΡΟΝΠΑΡ | ΘΕΝΕΦΡ8 | ΡΕΙ
+ | ΚΩΝΤΑΝ | ΤΕΙΑCΠΡΟ | ΕΔΡΟΝΠΑΡ | ΘΕΝΕΦΡ8 | ΡΕΙ
Κωνσταντείας πρόεδρον Παρθένε φρουρεῖ

To supplement the previous publication I can add Seib's ascertainment that perhaps this seal was used during the absence of the bishop or even during a vacancy of the episcopal see of Konstanteia.

1730. Μεθόδιος ἐπίσκοπος Κωνσταντείας (X-XI c.)

Private collection (W. Seibt from Vienna, no. 415, from Gorny & Mosch, Sale 156, 6.3.2007, no. 2540. Find-spot: uncertain (Southern Bulgaria). Well-centered and complete imprint, covered with lead oxide, especially the reverse.
Ed. *Seibt*, *Byzantine sigillography and Bulgaria*, fig. 3
No known parallels.

Obv. Bust of a saint bishop (St Methodius). The face shows an old man, an ascetic type, with a round beard in strands, and probably big ears (or strands of the hairdressing?); the gesture of the hands is not clear – perhaps he was holding the gospel with both hands (the relief is pressed in this part of the field). Inscription in two columns: Θ-ΜΕ || Θ-Ο-Δ' Circular inscription along border of dots: +ΚΕΡΟΗ - Θ. . . C'Δ . .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ΜΕΘΟ | ΔΗΩΕΠ | . CΚΟΠ' | . ΩΝCΤ | ΑΝΤΙ'
+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ[ει τῷ] σ(ῶ) δ[ούλῳ] Μεθοδῆῳ ἐπ[ι]σκόπ(ω)
[Κ]ωνσταντ(ε)ι(ας)

Methodius is the first sigillographically documented bishop of this city, as the other type is anonymous.

26. Μαγνησίας.

It is assumed that it concerns Magnesia on the Maeander and was found in the ruins of Teke to the north of Kemer in modern Turkey. The representation of St. Kodratos on our seal too attests that he must have been one of the bishops of Magnesia. For more information on it, see *Laurent, Corpus*, V.1, p. 189.

1730Α. Βασίλειος ἐπίσκοπος Μαγνησίας (X-XI c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad [I 2009]). Find-spot: Preslav. D. 25-26 (24) 4 mm. W. 11.00 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation despite some damages.
Unpublished.

Obv. Bust of St. Kodratos with short hair and beard wearing himation and holding a globe surmounted with a cross (r. hand) and a model church or a casket with relics. (l. hand).

At either side, vertical inscription: Θ-KO-Δ || . – T-O-C

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΡΑCΙΛΙΩ | ΕΠΙCΚΟΠ' | ΜΑΓΝ'C | - Α -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω Βασιλίω ἐπισκόπ(ω) Μαγν(η)σ(ί)α(ς)

Two others specimens of the same bishop struck in the same boulloterion were offered at the auction Gorny & Mosch, no. 156, 5 March 2007. Lot number: 2535 and no.160, 9 October 2007. Lot number 2842.

Obv. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8ΛΩ | ΡΑCΙ . . | Ω

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

. . . | ΕΠΙC | ΚΟΠΩ | ΜΑΓΝΙ | CΙΑC

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω Βασιλίω ἐπισκόπω Μαγνισίας

27. Μεσημβρίας

1731-1735. Ἰλλαρίων ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Μεσημβρίας (XIth century)

His name is inscribed on five seals imprinted with the same boulloterion which originate from the Strategia of Preslav. The last one is unpublished and is privately owned.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 390-393; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.7.

No parallels known.

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.10). In the quarter: ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΙΛΑΡΙ | ΩΝΑΡΧ | ΕΠΙCΚ'Π | ΜΕCΗΡ | ΡΙΑ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Ἰλλαρίων ἀρχιεπισκ(ό)π(ω) Μεση(μ)βρίας(ς)

1736. Κωνσταντῖνος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Μεσημβρίας (XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-25 (20) 3.1 mm, W. 8.3 g. It was once a good imprint, now damaged. A fragment is cut from it, it is deformed probably during excavation with a metal detector and an adze.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with both hands open in front of her chest. Sigla: at l. M-P. A triangular element is engraved above it.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

...N | ...NT'Ε | ...ΑΡΧ'Ε | Π'CΚ'ΜΕCΗ | ΜΡΙΑ | - C -

[+Κω]ν[στα]ντ[ίν]ω ἐ[λ(α)χ(ί)σ(τ)ω] ἀρχ(ι)επ(ι)σκ(ό)π(ω) Μεσημβρίας

The name of Constantine archbishop of Mesembria is reported on a session of the synod in 1030 (see Ficker, *Erlase*, S. 20.20). It is possible that it applies to the same person.

1737. Μιχαήλ ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Μεσημβρίας (second half of the XIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Pomorie, no. 25. Originates from the same city. D. 16-18 (over 18) 2 mm. Good imprint but the periphery of the bulla seems to have been cut or the blank was formed in advance but it is evident that the entire dies did not cover it. Reading the text is most difficult in the third line. The name or the beginning of the name of the titular and his office should be written there. The suggestion which I made: . I = [M]ιχ(αήλ) seems acceptable.

Ed. Йорданов, Анхиало, № 17; Jordanov, G. Names, no. 47.8.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin with a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘV.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | .Γ'ΑΡΕΠΙ | CΚΟΠΟΜΕ | .ΗΜΡΠΙ | .C

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δού(λ)ω [M]ιχ(αήλ) ἀρ(χι)επισκόπο
Μεσημβρί[α]ς

28. Μύρων

Metropolitan of Myra (ruins closed to Demre and Köycik) was famous for the relics of St. Nicholas; it was also a major metropolis mentioned in all notitae and whose metropolitans attended the major councils and the patriarchal synod from the IVth century onward, see Laurent, *Corpus*, V.1, p. 370; DOS, II. P. 173.

1737A. Φίλιππος ποιμενάρχος Μύρων (XI c.)

Private collection V. Stankov from Batak, no. 253. Find-spot: the village of Topolovo, Asenovgrad municipality.

D. 22-23 (14-15) 4 mm, W.9.11 g. Well-centered and complete imprint. Some letters on the reverse are indistinct and effaced which renders the reading difficult.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription:

Θ-N-I || K-O-ΛΑ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

CΦΡΑΓΙ | ΦΙΛΙΠΠ8 | ΠΟΙΜΕΝΑΡ | Χ8ΜVP | ΩΝ

Σφραγ(ίς) Φίλιππου ποιμενάρχου Μύρων

A metropolitan of Myra by this name is unknown from the sources. Similar to the other known titulars he obligatorily placed the image of St Nicholas on the obverse. The following question arises: to whom in present-day Topolovo, Asenovgrad region, did this prelate of Myra write? For the meaning of the term ποιμενάρχος with which some metropolitans called themselves, see Laurent, *Corpus*, V.1,XXXI.

29. Νέων Πατρων

1738. Κοσμάς μητροπολίτης Νέων Πατρῶν (XI century)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14849. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: the region of the medieval fortress near the town of Provadia. D. 19-19 (17) 4 mm, W. 7.96 g. A well centered and well preserved imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 53a.1.

Parallels : **Laurent, Corpus**, V.1, no. 759.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion of Christ before her. Sigla: \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΟC | ΜΑCΜΡΟ | ΠΟΛΗ'ΝΕ | ΠΡΩΝ

+ Κοσμᾶς μ(η)τροπολή(της) Νέ(ων) Π(α)τρῶν

30. Νικοπόλων

1739. Λέων ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Νικοπόλεως (IXth century)

Unknown place of preservation. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 30-30 (23) 2.5 mm. Good but unclear imprint.

Ed. **Мухомов, Печати**, № 31; **Laurent, Corpus**, V.1, no. 670; **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 54.1.

Parallels. Other specimens imprinted with the same couple of dies are kept in: DO. 47. 2. 118; Dalleggio (Athens); Diamanti (Vienna) and the National Museum of Hungary (about them see **Laurent, Corpus**, V.1, no. 670; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS**, 2, no. 2.12).

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5). In the quarters: ΤΩ-СΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΛΕΟΝΤ | ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙC | Κ'ΝΙΚΟΠΟΛ | .ΝΑΜΗΝ

+Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Λέοντι(ι) ἀρχιεπισκ(όπῳ) Νικοπόλ[ω]ν ἀμήν

31. Νίσος

1740. Συμεὼν ἐπίσκοπος Νίσος (XIth century)

RHM-Vidin, no. 1526. Find-spot: Vidin. D. 15-16.5 (15) 2.9 mm. Incomplete imprint. All letters are not present on the blank. The bulla is also partly damaged.

Ed. **Jordanov, G. Names**, no. 55.2.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Prokopios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription: .-ΠΡ-Ο || .-Π'.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

.Κ.Ρ'. | CVMΕΟΝ | ΕΠΙCΚΩ | Π'ΝΙC

[+] Κ(ύρι)[ε] β(οή)[θ(ει)] Συμεὼν ἐπισκώπ(ω) ΝίC(ου)

32. Παπικίος

1741. Ν., πρῶτος τοῦ Παπικίου (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15155. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 151. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 13-15 (13) 4.5 mm. W. 4.04 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The

blank seems to have a lozenge shape and the imprint moved.

Ed. **Jordanov, Zhekova**, no. 365.

Parallels : **Laurent, Corpus**, V, no. 1237, struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. The Virgin standing holding Christ in l. arm. Sigla: \overline{MP} || . .

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

ΘΚ. | .ΟΗΘΕΙ | .ΟΠΡΟΤ' | Τ8ΠΑΠΙ | ΚΙΟΝ

[+]Θ(εοτό)κ[ε β]οήθει [τ]ο πρότ(ω) τοῦ Παπικίου

It is impossible to say on what occasion the confraternity of the monastery in the Papikion mountain wrote to an unknown addressee in the fortress near the village of Melnitsa.

33. Προύσης

Proussa (modern Bursa at the foot of Mount Olympus in Bithynia) a suffragant of Nikomedia was represented at the Council of Nicaea in 325 and is mentioned in all notitiae until the XIIth century.

1742. Κοσμᾶς ἐπίσκοπος Προύσης (XIth century)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 278. Found during excavations in Pliska in 2005. Palace square, sector northwest, square 2, depth 0.40 m, filed no. 16, 09. 08. 2005. D. 21-21 (21) 3 mm, W. 6.36 g. Good imprint. The first letters of almost all lines are missing.

Unpublished.

Parallels: **Laurent, Corpus**, V.1, no. 383; **DOS**, 3, no. 67.2.

Obv. Inscription of four lines, a decoration below.

ΘΚΕ | .ΟΗΘΙ | . ΩCΩ | Δ8Λ'|-

Rev. Inscription of four lines, a decoration below.

ΚΟCMA | .ΠΙCΚΟ | . ΩΠΡ8 | CHC | -.-

+ Θ(εοτό)κε [β]οήθ(ε)ι [τ]ῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Κοσμᾶ [ἐ]πισκό[π]ω Προύσης

The question arises to whom in Pliska and on what occasion the bishop of Prusa sent his correspondence.

34. Ρωσίας

1742A. Κωνσταντῖνος πρόεδρος Ρωσίας (1156-1159)

RHM, Shumen, no. 15162. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: Melnitsa. D. 27.5-29 (26) 3.5 mm, W. 15.48 g. The specimen was once a complete good imprint, but now it is in a poor state of preservation, chipped along the circumference and cracked along the channel.

Ed. **Jordanov, I.** Печат на Константин митрополит на Русия (XII в.). - *Европа между средновековието и съвременността. Юбилеен сборник в чест на проф. дин. Радослав Мишев*, Велико Търново, 2009, 319-327.

Parallels: The collection of the Benaki Museum in Athens contains another specimen struck in the same boulloterion. The whole text can be restored on the basis of comparison with our specimen. We encountered an enigma in the process of comparison. According to Father Laurent's description, the Virgin is represented on the obverse seated on a low-backed throne. (**Laurent, Corpus** V. 1, p. 606, no. 789). However, a bust representation is seen in the illustration, which seen from a distance resembles

that of the Virgin, but a more careful look would ascertain that it is a beardless saint most probably St. Stephen (**Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, Pl. 107). Probably the unclear photo has given grounds to V. L. Yanin to postulate in his work that the obverse contains “поясное изображение Богоматери” (**Янин**, *Актовые печати*, с. 49, № 49). I find it difficult to explain this discrepancy. Perhaps there was a technical error in the publication of Laurent’s *Corpus* and the seal of Constantine proedros of Russia was related with the obverse of another seal. Victoria Bulgakova has encountered the same riddle in her work with the seals of the metropolitans of Kiev (**Bulgakova**, S. 265). She has investigated how was it that the image of St. Stephen appeared instead of that of the Virgin seated on throne. In her opinion, St. Stephen is from seal no. 199 of Laurent’s *Corpus* belonging to John kouboukleisios and imperial cleric (**Laurent V.** *Corpus*, V.1, no. 199). Gorny & Mosch Auction 160, 9 October 2007. Lot number: 2843.

Obv. The Virgin seated on a backless throne, holding a medallion before her breast. Sigla: ΜΡ || ΘΥ : Μ(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ CΦΡΑ | ΓΙCΠΡΟΕΔΡ8 | ΡΩCΙΑΚΩΝ | ΚΑΝΤΙΝ8 | -
+ Σφραγίς προέδρου Ρωσίας Κωνσταντίνου

Who was this Constantine proedros of Russia and how did his seal happen to be in the fortress near the village of Melnitsa? In the following lines I will try to find the answers to these two questions.

Another group of seals is known bearing the name of Constantine metropolitan of Russia.

They contained the image of the Virgin seated on throne on the obverse, as on our specimen, but the inscription of the reverse is different:

+ Κωνσταντίνος ἐλέω Θεοῦ μητροπολίτης πάσης Ῥωσίας

He is attested by three specimens. One in the collection of the museum in Lvov (**Swiencicky**, Lwow, 434-444) and further two in the collection of the Hermitage: the one is a lead seal (**Laurent V.** *Corpus*, V.1, 606-607) and the other is struck on a gold plate (**Гурулева В.В.** Второе обретение памятника (Хрисовул русского митрополита XII в.). - Сфрагистика и история культуры, Санкт Петербург, 2004, 121-129.

Two metropolitans of Russia in the XIIth c. named Constantine are attested in narrative sources. The one occupied the see in 1156 and died in 1159. The other was metropolitan from 1167 and his name was mentioned until 1174. The previous investigators shared the opinion that the first group of seals, to which our specimen also belongs, has to be associated with Constantine I, while the second one with Constantine II (1167-1174 see **Лихачев**, *Материалы*, с.5-6, 9-11).

As regards the person of Constantine, his name was first attested in the proceedings of a session of the Synod of the Patriarchate of Constantinople on 26th January 1156 chaired by the Patriarch (Loukas!). The question of Christ’s sacrifice in view of Christ’s passions and in liturgical aspect was discussed at this synod. The metropolitan of Russia, who was going to depart for his bishopric, shared his opinion on this question and demanded that the other hierarchs should also share theirs and that the synod should enact a decision which would settle the aroused dogmatic doubt. The opinion of the Metropolitan of Russia was that Christ’s sacrifice was not given only to the Father, but also to the Word itself and the Holy Spirit since the Holy Trinity was indivisible. Other bishops also shared their opinions and the Patriarch of Jerusalem as well. Then the two schismatics were questioned. Protoedictos Michael, perhaps the nephew of the metropolitan of Thessalonike (ὁ τοῦ Θεσσαλονίκης), declared that he had previous doubts but now fully accepted the opinion of the synod. The metropolitan of Dyrrachion Eustathios, who submitted his written opinion, admitted his

doubts and wished to be enlightened on the question. Finally, led by sacred zeal, the bishops signed an anathema to all who had different views and persevered in their heresy, but the penitents were accepted and pardoned according to the canons and traditions of the Fathers. The proceedings were signed and sealed by the chartophylax John Pantechnes (**Grumenl**, *Regestes*, no. 1038).

The name of Constantine metropolitan of Russia should be mentioned again in the register of the Patriarchate in the late January or February 1156. It is in regards of a patriarchal letter ascertaining the legitimacy of Constantine as metropolitan of Kiev and Russia. In the same letter it was ordered that Clement was banished from the metropolitan see, all who had nominated and supported him were put to anathema (or excommunication – the Slavic word for it is *неблагословения*) and those who Clement had promoted and ordained were defrocked.

Unfortunately, the text of the letter was lost. It can be restored on the basis of the unreliable text of the Goustin chronicle (**Grumenl**, *Regestes*, no. 1140).

The initiative for the choice and arrival of Constantine was due to Prince Yuri Dolgoruki. Three bishops arrived for the meeting of the metropolitan in Kiev: Neophitos of Novgorod, Kosmas of Polotsk and Manuel of Smolensk. Meanwhile Neophitos died before the arrival of Constantine and the divine service was conducted in Hagia Sofia by the two bishops and the metropolitan. Yuri received benediction in the church. When he occupied the see in Kiev, Constantine began with the appointment of new bishops and the banishment of Clement’s followers. In 1157 he appointed the Greek Kosmas as bishop in Galich and Basil, whose nationality is unknown, in Pereyaslav, and in 1159 Antony, a Greek again, in Chernigov. Arkadios, who the Novgorod citizens had elected in 1156, was approved on his chair in Novgorod in 1158. Prince Yuri Dolgoruki died on 15th May 1158 and was buried in St. Spas monastery in Berestov without the relevant honours due to the opposition against him in the Kievan society.

After Yuri’s death, Iziaslav Davidovich, the former Chernigov prince, settled in Kiev. However, his stay there was short since in the late 1158 he was driven away from Kiev. His church policy must have been very similar to that of Yuri since metropolitan Constantine remained in Kiev and continued distributing bishop positions: Arkadios in Novgorod, Leo in Rostov, etc.

After Iziaslav was driven away, Yaroslav and Mstislav entered Kiev. Metropolitan Constantine probably afraid of the revenge of Mstislav for the curse on his father by the synod of 1156 fled to Chernigov where the Greek Antony was bishop. It was precisely here that he got ill and soon died (around Easter 1159) and his will specified that his dead body be given to the dogs. This unusual wish soon provoked a pious legend of miracles accompanying the execution of the death will of the metropolitan (**Приселков, М. Д.** *Очерки по церковно-политической истории Киевской Руси X-XII вв.* Санкт Петербург, 2003, 213-216; **Щапов Ю. Н.**, *Государство и церковь Древней Руси 10-13 вв.* Москва, 1989, с. 197.14).

35. Σεβαστείας

1743. Θεόδοτος μητροπολίτης Σεβαστείας (XIth century)

Unknown place of preservation. Find-post: uncertain. D. 23-24(22)3 mm. Incomplete and unclear imprint.

Ed. **Мушмов**, *Печати*, № 33; **Laurent**, *Corpus*, V.1, no. 412; **Jordanov**, *G. Names*, no. 69.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ in her left arm. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}}$ || ..

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡ | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΘΕΟΔΟΤ' | ΜΡΟΠΟΛ' | CΕRAC | TIAC
+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θει τῷ σῷ δού(λῳ) Θεοδότ(ῳ) μ(η)τροπολ(ίτη)
Σεβαστ(ε)ίας

36. Σεβάστις

1744. Λέοντι Σεβάστις (XIth century)

Private collection. I have examined it in the RHM-Burgas thanks to the courtesy of my colleague I. Karayotov.

Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Melnitsa. Diam. 16-17(14) mm. Complete and well-preserved specimen.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 70.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Demetrios standing, holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand), both resting on the ground. Vertical inscription: \odot -Δ-Η || -Η-Τ-Ρ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΤΗCΕΡΑ | CΤΗC
+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Λέοντι τῇ(ς) Σεβάστης

37. Σεβεριάδος

1745-1747. Γρηγόριος ἐπίσκοπος Σεβεριάδος (Xth-XIth centuries)

1745. RHM-Silistra, no. 38. Originates from the same city. D. 24-24.5 (19) 3.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. The form of the blank was triangular. The bulla itself has a poorly preserved surface and is cut with a sharp object.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, II, № 4; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 71.1a.

1746. Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 18967. D. 30-30 (20?) 4 mm.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 394; Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 71.1b.

1747. In my previous publication I used a plaster cast preserved in the collection of Prof. T. Gerassimov. A note on the reverse informs that the original was in Dr. V. Haralanov's collection from Shumen and that he bought it in Silistra. Currently in the Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 148. D. 26-27 (20?) 6 mm. W. 27.53 g. The imprint is on a large thick blank.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 71.1c.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Gregory dressed as a bishop, blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Along border of dots, circular inscription: +ΑΓΙΕ.....ΠΙΕΡΟΗ...

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ΓΡΗΓ | ΟΡ'ΕΠΙCΚ | ΟΠ'CΕVΕ Ρ | ΙΑΔΟC
+Ἄγιε [Γρηγό]ριε βοή[θει] Γρηγορ(ίῳ) ἐπισκόπ(ῳ) Σεβεριάδος

38. Σέρραι

1748. Κωνσταντῖνος μητροπολίτης Σερρών (Xth century)

Historical Museum, Radnevo. It was unearthed in the "Lozyata" area north of the "Gradishteto" fortress near the village of Polski Gradets, region of Nova Zagora. D.18-24 mm. About half of a previously good imprint. This makes the reading difficult.

Ed. Jordanov, *G. Names*, no. 72.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of a military saint, holding a spear (r. hand). Remains of a vertical inscription:

\odot -ΘΕ-Ο ||

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

..NMH | ..ΟΠΟΛ | ... CCE | * . ΩN *
[Κω]ν(σταντῖνος) μη[τρ]οπολ[ίτης] Σε[ρ]ῶν

39. Σοφρώνης τοῦ Ξυλιώτου

1749. Μονὴ Σοφρώνης τοῦ Ξυλιώτου πατρίκιος (X c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev, Varna, no. 109). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 21-22 (21) 3 mm. W. 7.2 g. Well-centered imprint in a relatively good state of preservation. The first letters of the first four lines remained outside the blank.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Another specimen struck in the same boulloterion is preserved in the collection Fogg, A.M., no. 3641, see Laurent, *Corpus*, V.2, no. 1280; DOS, 5, no. 88.1.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on steps with fleurons arising from base up to second transverse bar.

Traces of circular inscription: + ΘΕΟΤΟΚΕΙΡΟΗΘΕΙ.

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

. MONH | .ΤΩNCOΦ | . ΩNHCΠAT | . ΗΚΕΙΩNT | ΩNEVΛH | NHTΩN
+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει. Μονῇ[ς] τῶν Σοφ[ρ]ώνης πατρικείων τῶν Ξυληνητῶν

The original publisher of the specimen from Fogg A.M. deciphered the last two lines on the reverse as τῶν καλλνίκων. The publishers of DOS do not accept this reading but do not propose anything else. τῶν Ξυληνητῶν is certainly inscribed on our specimen.

According to V. Laurent (*Corpus*, V.2, p. 198) this monastery was dedicated to 42 officers who were taken prisoners by the Arabs during the capture of the city of Amorion on 12th August and who died as martyrs in 848 in Syria. The same toponym was assumed by the publishers of DOS. Now the definition τῶν Ξυληνητῶν leads the investigation into a different line. The text of our seal suggests that the monastery bears the name of the patrikios Sophronios Xylinites. Another monastery to a representative of this family Μονὴ Νικήτα τοῦ Ξυλιώτου is known in the literature. It is accepted that the founder of the monastery was Niketas Xylinites who in the years of Emperor Basil I (867-886) was sent to a monastery due to his illegal connections with the empress. He was a treasurer of the church Hagia Sofia under Leo VI (886-912) (see Symeon Magistros, 133.13), after which he retired to the

monastery founded by him (see **Janin**, Eglises et monasteres, 393-394).

The exact location and date of establishment of the Monastery of patrikios Sophronios Xylinites is impossible to determine. The dating of the seal is generally to the Xth c. According to **Wassiliou, A.-K.** (BZ, 100/101, 2007, S. 235, No. 88.1) it can be located in the Eastern Thrace in the region of Raideostos. The unusual invocation +Θεοτόκε βοήθει inscribed around the cross suggests that this monastery could be dedicated to the Virgin.

40. Σωζοπόλεος

1750. Γερμανός επίσκοπος Σωζοπόλεος (IX-X c.)

RHM-Burgas, no. 77. Found during archaeological excavations of the cathedral church in Sozopol in the Ribarska Str. in 2003. It was presented to me for documentation by the supervisor of the excavations the research associate Tsonya Drazheva in Shumen on 11th May 2004. D. 25-27 (23) 3 mm. W. 7.4 g. Incomplete imprint with missing fields. Corroded along the channel.

Unpublished

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding a medallion before her breast. Sigla: \overline{MP} || .. Remains from circular inscription: ... ΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔ'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

-: + :- | ΓΕΡΜΑ | ΝΟΕΛ... | ΕΠΙCΚ... | CΟΖΟΠΟΛ'

[+Θ(εοτό)κε βο]ήθει τῷ σῶ δούλ(ω) Γερμανο ἐλ(α)[χ(ί)σ]τῳ] ἐπισκ[όπ]ω
Σοζοπόλ(εος)

A bishop of Sozopol by this name is unknown from the written sources. It is an important fact that it was found in the cathedral church of the town. Perhaps it was suspended from a document. I have difficulty in dating the seal due to its quality. The style, depiction, paleography of the letters point to a dating in the IXth c. but since it is a case of a church seal dating in the Xth c. is also possible.

1751. Ν., αρχιεπίσκοπος Σ.....ολιτων (Xth century)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 137. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 20-20 (20 ?) 3 mm. W. 6.57 g. Incomplete imprint in a poor state of preservation which renders difficult the reading of the homonym and toponym.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 74.2.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of indeterminate saint (St. Theodore Studites !) holding a martyr's cross (r. hand).

Rev. Inscription of six lines:

..... | ΤΩCΩΔ | ΟΝΑ'ΑΓ.ΑC | ...ΑΡΧ... | .ΚΟΠΩC.. | ..ΛΙΤΩΝ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει)] τῷ σῶ δούλ(ω) Ἀγ(ε)[λ]ασ[ί]ω or Ἀγ(ε)[λ]άσ[τ]ω
ἀρχ(ιε)[πίσ]κόπω Σ[ωζοπ]ολιτων

41. Τραπεζοῦντος

1752. Φωτεινός επίσκοπος Τραπεζοῦντος (IXth century)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 135. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-24 (24?) 2-3 mm. W. 15.28 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 75.1.

No parallels known

Obv. Cruciform invocative monogram: Θεοτόκε βοήθη.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ | . ΩΤΙΝΩ | ΠΙCΚΟΠΩ | ΤΡΑΠΕ | ΖΟΝ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει [Φ]ωτ(ε)ινῷ [ἐ]πισκόπῳ Τραπεζοῦ(ντος)

42. Τριαδίτζης

1753. Νικήτας επίσκοπος Τριαδίτζης (XIth-XIIth centuries)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14699. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. Large blank with a diameter of 41.5-41.5 mm; W. 52.60 g. and a large swelling of the channel for the cord. There is a blocked or welded iron wire in the channel. About one third of the blank is broken or cut. Using the same boulloterion, four imprints have been struck on the blank. Two of them feature on half of it and two others are on the other half of the blank but in different directions. The imprints are incomplete and overlap. The text published below is compiled from comparisons of the four. The diameter of every single imprint is 18 mm.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 76.1.

Parallels: **Laurent, Corpus**, V.2, no. 1504; **Zacos, Seals**, II, no. 661; **Nesbitt-Oikonomides, DOS**, I, no. 70.2a-b. Imprint from different boulloteria. The three specimens originate from Constantinople and one is from Jerusalem.

Obv. St. George standing, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a shield put on ground.

Inscription in two columns: .-ΓΕ-Ω-.. ||

Rev. Metrical inscription of five lines above the decoration:

ΤΟΝΤΡΙΑ | ΔΗΤΖΗCΝΙ | ΚΗΤΑΝΜΑΡ | ΤΥCCKΕ | ΠΟΙC

Τὸν Τριαδίτζης Νικήταν Μάρτυς σκέποις

43. Φιλιππουπόλεως

1754-1754A. Βασίλειος μητροπολίτης Φιλιππουπόλεως (XIth century)

1754. RHM-Yambol, no. II 4571. Discovered on the lands of Izvorovo, region of Harmanli. D. 21-22 mm. Well-preserved imprint.

Ed. Jordanov, G. Names, no. 77.3.

1754A. Private collection (W. Seibt from Vienna, no. 417, from Gorny & Mosch, Sale 156, 6.3.2007, no. 2547. Find-spot: uncertain (Southern Bulgaria). Well-centered and complete imprint (has a double strike of the same boulloterion)

Ed. Seibt, Byzantine sigillography and Bulgaria, fig. 1

Parallels: **Laurent, Corpus**, V.1, no. 687 (from the museum of Antioch, no. 438); **Zacos, Seals**, II, no.

381; Seyrig, no. 263; Nesbitt-Oikonomides, *DOS*, 1, no. 68.1. the latter is imprinted with the same boulloterion as our specimen.

Obv. Between two borders of dots circular inscription beginning at 12 o'clock:
+ΚΕΡΟΗΘ'ΤΩCΩΔ8ΛΩΡΑCΙΑΕΙΩ.
In the centre bust of St. Michael holding a scepter ornamented with three balls (r. hand) and an orb (l. hand). Traces of: M || I.
Rev. Between two borders of dots circular inscription beginning at 12 o'clock:
+ΜΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΝΠΟΛΕΩC
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Βασιλείῳ μ(η)τροπολίτῃ Φιλιππουπόλεως
In the centre bust of St. John the Theologian holding a book (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ|ΙΩ|Ο - Θ|Ε-ΟΛ-Γ

1755. Θεόγνωστος μητροπολίτης Φιλιππουπόλεως (Xth-XIth centuries)

Private collection (Valentin Dimitrov from Haskovo). Find-spot: the fortress near the village of Klokotnitsa, region of Haskovo. D. 21-24 (18-20) 2.5 mm. Incomplete imprint. Parts of the dies are not imprinted, especially on the obverse. The bulla itself is damaged and broken along the line of the channel. All this makes difficult the reading of the text.
Ed. Димитров, В. Моливдовул на Теогност, митрополит на Филипопол от X-XI в., намерен в землището на с. Клокотница, Хасковско. - *Нумизматика и сфрагистика*, 2, 1998, 90-93; Jordanov, G. *Names*, no. 77.4.
No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons rising from base. Along the border circular inscription:ΤΩ.ΩΔΟV..
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
.ΘΕΟ|ΓΝΟC..|ΜΗΤΡ..|..ΛΙΠ..|..ΠΟΛ
[+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει)] τῷ [σ]ῷ δού[λῳ] Θεογνόσ[τῳ] μητρ[οπ(ολίτῃ)]
[Φι]λιπ[που]πόλ(εως)

1756. Κωνσταντῖνος μητροπολίτης Φιλιππουπόλεως (XI c.)

Private collection (Al. Peikov from V. Turnovo). According to the former owner, it was found somewhere in northwestern Bulgaria (in the Vidin area?). D. 25-26 mm. Incomplete and in part poorly preserved specimen.
Ed. Jordanov, G. *Names*, no. 77.5.
No parallels known. According to the owner of the specimen in Plovdiv, he saw another specimen, struck in the same boulloterion, and in superb condition.

Obv. Two frontal busts: St. Peter at l. holding cross potent on long shaft (l. hand) and St. Paul at r. holding book (l. hand).
Rev. Inscription of five lines:
+ΚΕΡ. | ΤΩCΩΔ8 | ΚΩΝ ΜΡΟΠ | ΛΙΤ'ΦΙΛ. | ΠΟΛΕΩ. | - ο -
+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ[θ(ει)] τῷ σῷ δού[λῳ] Κων(σταντίνῳ) μ(η)τροπ(ο)λίτ(η)
Φιλι[π(ου)]πόλεω[ς]

44. Χρυσοκεφάλος

1757-1759. Μονῆς τῆς Θεοτόκος τῆς Χρυσοκεφαλῆ (XIth century)

1757. National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 15037. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 20-21 (17) 3 mm. A good imprint but with a fragment broken.
Ed. Jordanov, G. *Names*, no. 79.1a.
1758. Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 92. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16.5-17 (17?) 2.5 mm. W. 3.75 g. The imprint was once good but now it is badly preserved.
Ed. Jordanov, G. *Names*, no. 79.1b.
1759. Private collection (Al. Peikov from Veliko Turnovo). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 18-19 mm. A full and well-preserved imprint.
Ed. Jordanov, G. *Names*, no. 79.1c.
The three specimens were printed with the same boulloterion.
No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book of the Gospels (l. hand).
Vertical inscription of two columns: Θ-NI-K || Λ-A-O'
Rev. Inscription of three lines:
ΟΧΡ. | CΩΚΕΦ | ΑΛΟC
'Ο Χρυσοκεφάλος

In his review (BZ, 98, 2005, S. 133), Seibt assumes the possibility that this is a family name which is not impossible but it was somehow connected with the monastery by the same name.

B. Seals of Prelates of unspecified sees

They are defined as indeterminate mostly due to their poor states of preservation. However, the name of the see is really lacking on some of them.

1760. Nonella bishop (VII c.)

- RHM-Shumen, no. 15200. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak. Find-spot: Northeastern Bulgaria. D. 20-23 (20) 4 mm. W. 9.94 g.
Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 506.
Parallels: Two specimens (M-7870 and M-7875) struck in the same boulloterion are preserved in the Hermitage Collection, see Степанова, Латинскими, № 32.

Obv. Cruciform inscription in Latin within a wreath of leaves:

N
E L O L Ч
N

Rev. Cruciform inscription in Latin within a wreath of leaves:

E
C O P Y
I
S

Nonellu episcopi

The parallels cited above were found in Venice and Istanbul. The information on the find-spot of our specimen is not very secure, but it generally originates from northeastern Bulgaria. If the dating offered by Stepanova is correct, it would be very interesting to answer the question about the possible recipient in Bulgaria in the VIIIth c. of this bishop's correspondence whose name, according to her, was Gothic (Степанова, Латинскими, c.37). Perhaps a VIIth-century dating would be much more plausible!

Τιμόθεος ἐπίσκοπος (VI-VII c.) see no. 2320

1761. Ἀνδρέας μητροπολίτης (VII c.)

Private collection (A. Hadzhikostov from Stara Zagora). Find-spot: Nesebar. D. 23-26 (?) 5 mm. Incomplete imprint, but bulla in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Seibt-Zarniz, no 3.2.1. Struck in the same boulloterion and presumably also comes from Bulgaria.

Obv. St. Sophia, nimbate, standing, facing, holding cross before her; she wears chiton and maphorion. Vertical inscription in two columns: H-A-ΓI-A || C-O-ΦI-A.

Rev. Facing bust of a saint or man without nimbus. On either side, monograms. The one on the left presumably contains the homonym A, Δ, Ε, Ν, Ο, Ρ и V = Ἀνδρέου; Εὐάνδρου or Εὐανδρίου and the one on the right, the position H, Λ, Μ, Ο, Π, Ρ, Τ and V= μητροπολίτου.

Ἀνδρέας μητροπολίτης (VI-VII c.) see no. 2233

1762-1763. Κωνσταντῖνος μητροπολίτης (X-XI c.)

1762. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 18502. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 21.1-22 (18) 3 mm, W.9.10 g. Unsuccessful imprint. The letters on the reverse are effaced.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 474.

1762. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 22144. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 18-19 mm. The imprint was perhaps successful but now it is chipped.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 475.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Demetrios holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: Θ- Δ-H || M-H-TP'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ KER' | TWCΩΔ' | KΩNMH | TΠOT | o IN o

+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οήθει) τῷ σῷ δ(ούλῳ) Κων(σταντίνῳ) μητ(ρο)πο(λί)τιν

Despite the restoration of the text on the basis of the two specimens the reading is still difficult. In my previous publication I assumed that the name Constantine is followed by the position μητροπολίτης, which seemed unconvincing to me. Now I wonder whether it is not the patronym (τὸν) Μητ(ρο)πο(λί)τιν. W. Seibt's proposal is quite different: Κων(σταντίνῳ) μ(εσό)π(ρατει) τ(ῷ) Ποτιν..

1764. Νικόλαος ἐπίσκοπος. (X c.)

RHM-Silistra. Find-spot: village of Balik, disc. Silistra. D. 14-22 (21) 2 mm. Excellent imprint. Half preserved.

Unpublished.

Obv. Preserved upper part of a patriarchal cross. A globe at the end of each arm. A six-rayed star in the fields at either side of the cross. Preserved from the invocation:

. . . . ΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟ . . .

Rev. Inscription of five (?) lines:

+ NIK | OΛAΩ | EΠICK . |

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)]θει) τῷ σῷ δο[ύλῳ] Νικολάῳ ἐπισκ[όπῳ]

1765. Νικόλαος μητροπολίτης (X-XI c.)

RHM-Silistra, no. 61. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 13-22.5 (20.5) 2.5 mm. Specimen in a poor state of preservation.

About a half preserved with corroded surface.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, III, № 16.

Obv. Part from bust of St. Nicholas and circular inscription: HΘITΩCΩΔ8A'

Rev. Inscription of five or more lines:

-✕- | + NIKO | ΛAΩMH | TPOΠ . . . | TH |

[+Κ(ύρι)ε βο]ήθι τῷ σῷ δούλ(ῳ) Νικολάῳ μητροπ[ολί]τη

It is interesting that two seals bearing the name Nicholas originate from Silistra. The one belonged to a bishop and the other to a metropolitan. Both survived in one half and have similar datings. They might have had something in common somehow.

1766. Ν., πρεσβύτερος, ἡγούμενος ... (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15133. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 129. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo district. D. 18-18.5 (19 ?) 3 mm. W. 8.48 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. Some of the letters remained out of the blank, while others were damaged and as a result the reading is incomplete.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 367.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin facing, holding medallion of Christ before her, palm outward. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}} \parallel \overline{\Theta\text{V}}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. AP..T' | . 8AAAX'Π | .VT'ΗΓΜ | ΛΑVP'T8 |
..... πρεσβυτέρω ήγ(ου)μ(ένω) λαυρ(α) του̃

1767. Βασίλειος πρεσβύτερος ... (X- XI c.)

Private collection (V. Panteleev from Varna, no. 385. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 19-17

mm. W. 5.3 g. Incomplete imprint in a good state of preservation. The blank was smaller in diameter than the dies due to which parts of the image and inscription remained unprinted. The first and last lines of the inscription either did not print or were effaced.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. Basil blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Traces of a vertical inscription: | ..-Λ-HO'.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. . . . | RACIA . | ΠΡΕCRV | ΤΕΡ . . . |
[-K(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) Βασιλ(είω) πρεσβυτέρ[ω]

1768. Ν., ποιμήν (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15148. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 144. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 11-14.5 (10) 3.5 mm. W. 3.68 g. Complete imprint in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 368.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of three lines:

+ΚΕ | ROH | ΘΕΙ

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

TIN | ΠΟΙΜ' | COV

+Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθει τιν ποιμ(ένω) σου̃

1769. Μονῆς τῆς XI c.

Private collection (Al. Peikov from V. Turnovo). Find-spot: uncertain. D. 16-19 (18) 3.5 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint. The right half was broken. The name of the monastery is uncertain.

Unpublished

No parallels known. The same depiction and almost the same text are found on a bulla of the Chortaites monastery [Χορταΐτου], see **Laurent, Corpus**, V/2, no. 1242; *DOS*, I, no. 27.1, but we cannot be sure that it concerns seals from the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with medallion on her breast. Sigla: $\overline{\text{MP}} \parallel$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

. . ΦΡΑ | . . CΠANA | . . . THC | . ON'XA | . . ON

[+Σ]φρα[γί]ς Πανά[γνο]υ τῆς [μ]ον(ῆς).

1770. Στέφανος ήγουμένος (X-XI c.)

Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad). It was offered for purchase at the Regional Historical Museum, Shumen. It was purchased from a person who maintained that the seal originated from the stronghold near the town of Provadia. D. 20-22 (22 ?) 3 mm. Well-centered imprint. The surface is corroded with oxide nests which renders the reading of the text and the identification of the iconography difficult.

Unpublished.

Obv. Ornamented cross in center. At either side, busts of two saints wearing chlamydes and cloaks.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ CΤΕΦΑ | ΝΩΗΓΟΝ | ΜΑ . . ΙΠ | ΕΛ . . .

+ Στεφάνω ήγουμ(ένω).

C. Monks and Clerics

1771. Γαβριήλ μονοαμαρτολός (last quarter of the IX c.)

Bucharest - MNA 1160/1400. Former Mititelu Collection. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 22-22 (21) 2 mm. Good imprint.

Ed. Laurent, Sceaux inedits.- EO, 32, 1933, 35-53, no. 9; Barnea, Noii sigilii, no. 10.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps. Circular inscription between two borders of dots:

....ΗΘΕΙΤΩCΩΔΟΝΑ'

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΓΑΡ | ΡΙΗΛΤΟ | ΜΟΝΟΑ | ΜΑΡΤ | Λ

[+ Κ(ύρι)ε βο]ήθει τῷ σῷ δού(λω) Γαβριήλ το Μονοαμαρτ(ω)λ(ῶ)

At first glance the text suggests that το Μονοαμαρτ(ω)λ(ῶ) is a patronym which would be an exception in the IXth c. It is more likely, as the original publisher of the seal notes, that this expression emphasizes the highest degree of piety and humbleness of this monk.

1772. Εὐστάθιος ἀμαρτωλός (last quarter of the IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Preslav, no. 26712. Found in the dumped soil during excavations of the Preslav Archbishopric site, sector South on 23th July 1987. D. 23.5-25 (19) 4 mm. Once a complete imprint. Now the surface is damaged.

Unpublished.

Parallels: Zacos, Seals, I, no 1892. Struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. A cruciform invocative monogram (Pl. I.5); in the quarters : ΤΩ-CΩ || Δ8-ΛΩ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΕVC | ΤΑΘΗ | ΟΑΜΑΡ | ΤΟΛΩ

+ Θεοτόκε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Εὐσταθίῳ ἀμαρτόλῳ

The dating of the seal according to its overall appearance and shape as well as to the characteristic writing of Β is in the last quarter of the IXth c. This ascertainment raises interesting questions regarding the person of this prelate and his possible addressee in Preslav.

Unfortunately the data is insufficient for identification of Eustathios amartolos. The receipt of his correspondence in Preslav was most probably in connection with the changes ensuing from the shifting of the state center from Pliska to Preslav and the establishment of ecclesiastical structures here. We cannot determine with certainty Eustathios's addressee.

1773. Ἰωσήφ ἀμαρτωλός (XI c.)

Private collection. Plaster cast was sent to me by Mr. Valentin Dimitrov from Haskovo. The original was found in the Blesna fortress near present-day Dimitrograd. D. 15-16 (15) ? mm, W. 3.30 g. Incomplete imprint.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Blesna, no. 8.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: . || Θ.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

.ΚΕ.. | .ΩCΩΔ8' | .ΩCH. | .ΟΑΜΑΡ | .ΟΛΟ

[+ Θ(εοτό)]κε [β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) [Ἰ]ωσή[φ τ]ο ἀμαρ[τ]όλο

1774. Λέων ἀμαρτωλός (XI c.)

RHM-Pernik, no. 127. Found during excavations in the medieval fortress, square V/136, at a depth of 0.60 m, in 1961. D. 21-25 (17) ? mm. Weak imprint. Deep crack along the channel. Currently broken into two parts.

Ed. **Юркова**, Перник, 129-130, табл. VI.1.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. George holding a spear (r. hand) and a shield (l. hand). Vertical inscription in two columns: || P-Γ-I'

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ | ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤ. | ΑΜ.Ρ. | ΩΛΟ

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Λέοντ[ι] ἀμ[α]ρ[τ]ώλο

The reading of the last two lines is insecure due to their poor state of preservation.

The original publisher has deciphered the following letters: ΑΜΟΡ. | Ω...Ο and assumed that they record the family name Amoreonaios which she associates with the toponym Amorion.

The absence of a definite article to the suggested family name and the available letters ΑΜ.Ρ. | Ω.Ο give better reasons to assume the following reading: ἀμ[α]ρ[τ]ώλο.

1775-1777. Γρηγόριος β' κληρικὸς (X-XI c.)

1775. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no.16651. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 27-31 (25.5) 3.1 mm. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Преслав, № 383.

1776. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no.24631. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 24-261 (25.5) 3 mm. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation. Burnt as it seems.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Преслав, № 384.

1777. Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no.24640. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 12-23 mm. A quarter of what was once a good imprint.

Ed. **Йорданов**, Преслав, № 385.

The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- ÷ - | + ΚΕ | ΡΟΗΘΙ | ΤΩCΩ | Δ8Λ' | - ο -

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

- ✕ - | ΓΡΙΓΟ | ΡΙΟΡ'ΚΛ | ΗΡΙΚΟΝ | - ✕ -

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) τῷ σῷ δούλ(ω) Γριγορίῳ β' κληρικόν

1778. Ἀλύπιος μοναχὸς (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14687. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-24 (18) 2.5 mm. W. 6.60 g. Incomplete imprint, slightly off-center.

Ed. **Jordanov**, Zhekov, no. 348.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. Michael holding a scepter (r. hand) and a globus (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΙΑΛ. | ΠΙΩΜ. | ΝΑΧ.

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Ἀλ[υ]πίω μ[ο]ναχ[ῳ]

1779. Ἀρσένιος μοναχὸς καὶ β' κληρικὸς (X-XI c.)

Archeological Museum, Plovdiv, no.6006 (Former collection of V. Stankov from Batak, no. 4). Find-spot: Uncertain. D. 18-18 (15 ?) ? mm. W. 6. 52 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin holding Christ on her l. arm. Sigla:

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ ΘΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘ'ΑΡCΕ | ΝΙ'ΑΧ'Κ'Ρ' | ΚΛΗΡΙ | - Κ' -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθ(ει) Ἀρσενί(ω) (μον)αχ(ῳ) (καὶ) β' κληρικ]ῳ

1780. Ἀρσένιος Τζαμπλάκων μοναχὸς (XIV c.)

Archaeological Museum, Sofia, no. 183. Find-spot: Silistra? Given to the museum by Asen Nikolov from Silistra in 1976. Bulla in a good state of preservation. D. 33-33.5 (30) 4.5 mm. W. 22.82 g. Complete imprint, but not distinct enough. Metrical text composed of two twelve-syllable verses; it is difficult to decipher due to the characteristic XIVth-century paleography of the letters.

Ed. Йорданов, И. Печат на монаха Арсений Тцамблак, намерен в България-Трудове на катедрите по История и Богословие към Шуменския университет, 4, 2001, 40-45; Jordanov, Family Names, no. 710.

No parallels known.

Obv. The Virgin nimbate, standing on a souppedion, wearing himation and maphorion. Both hands raised in orans. No medallion on her chest. Sigla: $\overline{MP} || \overline{\Theta V}$: M(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ.

Rev. Metrical inscription of seven lines:

+ ΕΚΣΟ. | ΜΟΝΧΟCΑΡ | CΕΝΙΟCΤΑΜ | ΠΛΑΚΩΝΠ... | ΓΝΕΚΥΡΟΙΚΑΙ | ΓΡΑΦΑCΚΑΙΠ | ΡΑΚΤΕΑ |

+ Ἐκ σο[ῦ] μοναχὸς Ἀρσένιος Τζαμπλάκων π[άνα]γνε κυροῖ καὶ γραφὰς καὶ πρακτέα

1781-1782. Θεόκτιστος μοναχὸς (X-XI c.)

1781. Private collection (I. Yotov from Yambol). Find-spot: the fortress of Melnitsa or Zlati Voivoda. D. 20-20 mm. Complete imprint in a poor state of preservation.

Unpublished.

1782. Private collection (N. Nikolov from Razgrad, offered to the collection of RHM-Shumen in December 2007). Find-spot: Provadia. D. 17-18 (18) 3 mm. W. 5. 70 g. Well-centered but indistinct imprint. Certain letters did not print or were effaced.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

- + - | ΘΚΕΡΟ | ΗΘΕΙΤΩ | CΩΔ8 | -ΛΩ-

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΕΟ | ΚΤΗCΤΟ | ΜΟΝΑ | - Χ -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε βοήθει τῷ σῷ δούλῳ Θεοκτίστο μοναχ(ῶ)

1783. Λέοντιος μοναχὸς (XI c.)

Historical Museum, Nesebar, no. 2154. Find-spot: Pomorie (ancient Anchialo). D. 14-16 (13) 3 mm. W. 3.40 g. Well-centered imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of a military saint (St. Demetrios).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΛΕΟΝΤΙ | ΟΝΜΟΝ | ΑΧΟΝ

[+Κ(ύρι)ε] β(οή)θ(ει)] Λεοντιον μοναχὸν

1784. Μαρία μοναχή (XI c.)

1784. Private collection in Pernik. Found on the land of the village of Gorno Shivachevo, Sliven region, in the fortress by the river. D. 14-19(14) 2.5 mm. W. 2.71 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation made on a shapeless blank.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

1784B. Private collection (V. Stankov from Batak). Find-spot: Haskovo region? D. 13-14(12) 2 mm. W. 2.30 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

The two specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans. Sigla: $\overline{M} || \overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of three lines:

- + - | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΜΑΡΗΑ | $\overline{ΑΧ}$ '

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) Μαρήα (μον)αχ(ῆ)

1785. Ξένη πρωτοβεστιάριά μοναχή (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 15120. Former collection of Vesselin Stankov from Batak, no. 116. Find-spot: Melnitsa, Elkhovo region. D. 18.5-20 (15) 4 mm, W. 8.34 g. Complete imprint in an excellent state of preservation.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 347.

No parallels known

Obv. The Virgin Hagiosoritissa standing, turned three quarters r., with arms raised in orans toward the *manus Dei* appearing at the upper left side of the field. Inscription on either side: $\overline{MP} || \overline{\Theta V}$ | Η-Α-Γ' || C-O-P': M(ήτη)ρ Θ(εο)ῦ ἡ Ἀγ(ίο)σορ(ί)τισσα

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

-+- | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΗCΗΔ8' | ΕCΝΗ $\overline{ΑΧ}$ ΤΗ | Α'τRΕCΤΙ | -ΑΡΙΑ -

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῇ σῇ δού(λ)ῃ Ξένη (μον)αχ(ῆ) τῇ (πρω)τ(ο)βεστιάριά

Although the text is well-preserved, there is uncertainty in its interpretation. Different readings are possible: Xene is wife of a protovestiarios or daughter of this functionary and its position has the role of a patronym. The abbreviation Ax meaning that she was a nun is not very distinct.

1786. Νικόλαος Πεντακτένης μοναχὸς..... ? (XI c.)

RHM-Stara Zagora, no. 10SZ. Find-spot: probably the town. Well-centered imprint. The obverse printed completely. The right side of the reverse containing the inscription is obliterated. All that renders the reading difficult. D. 21-23 (13) 2.5 mm.

Ed. Йорданов, Берое, № 15.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. Nicholas standing blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). On either side: above ☉-NI || K-O-Λ'. Below him in horizontal lines:

+ ΚΕ-ΡΟΗ- Θ'ΝΙ-ΚΟΛ'-ΑΧ || ΤΩ-ΠΙΕΝ-ΤΑ-ΚΤΕ-ΝΙ = + Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει)

Νικολ(άω) (μον)αχ(ῶ) τῷ Πεντακτένι

Rev. St. Michael standing holding a long scepter surmounted by trefoil ornament (r. hand) and globus cruciger (l. hand). On either side: above ☉ || M-X. Below him in horizontal lines of small indistinct letters: ... - .. - ΔΟΡ - ΤΗ - ΜΟ - Ν || =[Θεο]δορ(ί)τη μον(αχῶ) τῷ

As in the previous publication, the main problem is deciphering the reverse. Only the name of the monk Nicholas Pentakteni is certain. The text of the other side either contains his remaining titles and positions or describes another person also a monk.

1787. Νικόλαος μοναχὸς (IX-X c.)

Private collection. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 31-34 mm. A large portion of the boulloterion did not print. The bulla itself is rather crude.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Patriarchal cross on three steps with fleurons. Traces of a circular inscription beginning at 12 o'clock: + ΚΕΡΟ.....

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΝΙΚΟ. | ΜΟΝ... | | ΝΟ..

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) Νικο[λ(άω)] μον[αχῶ]νο....

1788. Νικόλαος μοναχὸς (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14772. Former collection of Nikolay Nikolov from Razgrad. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 22-22 (18) 3 mm. W. 7.90 g. Well-centered but incomplete imprint. Certain letters are obliterated. Bent with a sharp object probably during its unearthing.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 349.

No parallels known

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand).

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+ ΝΙΚΟ | ΛΑΟΜΟ | ΝΑΧΟ

+ Νικολάο μοναχο

1789. Πέτρος μοναχὸς (XI c.)

RHM-Dobrich, no. I 1282. Find-spot: Silistra. D. 15-15 (11) 4 mm, W. 4.30 g. Good imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Силистра, IV, №

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: \overline{M} || $\overline{\Theta}$.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ' | ΠΕΤΡΩ | ΜΟΝΑΧ'

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δ(ούλῳ) Πέτρῳ μοναχ(ῶ)

1790. Στέφανος μοναχὸς (XI c.)

Archaeological Museum, Veliki Preslav, no. 24856. Find-spot: the Strategia of Preslav. D. 16-20 (14) 2.9 mm, W. 4.50 g. Complete imprint in a good state of preservation.

Ed. Йорданов, Преслав, № 397.

Parallels: Laurent, Corpus, V.2, no. 1371 and unpublished from Smjichkov's collection found in Chersones. The three specimens were struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Fowl walking to r., within a circle of pellets and a border of dots.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΚΕΡ | ΟΗΘΙC | ΕΦΑ'Μ | ΝΑΧ'

+ Κ(ύρι)ε βοήθ(ει) [Στ]εφά(νω) μ[ο]ναχ(ῶ)

It is an interesting ascertainment that the owner of the seal wrote simultaneously to Preslav and Chersones and probably lived in Consatntinople where the third specimen was found.

1791. Συμεὼν μοναχὸς (XI c.)

Plaster cast from Prof. Gerassimov's collection. The original was preserved in the collection of N. Rankov from Sofia. I do not know of its current place of preservation. D. 24-25 (19) ? mm. Superb imprint in a good state of preservation.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of the Virgin orans with a medallion of Christ on her breast. Sigla: \overline{MP} || $\overline{\Theta V}$.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

-+- | ΘΚΕΡ'Θ' | ΤΩCΩΔ8' | CVMΕΩΝ | ΜΟΝΑ | -ΧΩ-

+ Θ(εοτό)κε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ δού(λῳ) Συμεὼν μοναχῶ

E. Miscellaneous offices and titles

1792. Ἀντώνιος μοναχὸς καὶ πρεσβύτερος (last quarter of the IX c.)

Archaeological Museum, Varna, no. VIII. 205. Found by a treasure-hunter from Novi Pazar suggesting that the lead piece originates from northeastern Bulgaria, most probably Pliska. It is a thin lead plate of irregular shape and the following dimensions: 30-38 mm. W. 12.66 g. A boulloterion of 20mm of the dies was struck on it. The imprint is very weak and difficult to decipher, especially the obverse. The reverse is stronger but blurred. Perhaps a slipping occurred which renders the reading problematic.

Ed. Йорданов, И. Мисия на византийския монах и презвитер Антоний в средновековна България

Obv. Bust of Virgin holding medallion of Christ before her. The iconography of the Virgin bears the features of the so-called graphic style characteristic of Byzantine seals from the second half of the IXth c. No titles or invocative inscription are visible on the incomplete imprint.

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

... | + ANT. | ...MON | ...ΠΡΕ | ...VT | ...
+ Ἀντ[ωνίω] μον[αχῷ] πρε[σβ]υτ[έρω]

The most interesting fact about this sphragistic monument is that the boulloterion of the owner Antonios, monk and presbyteros, was struck on a casual lead plate. Undoubtedly it is a case of a Byzantine seal belonging to a Byzantine owner. How should we relate it to the Bulgarian lands and Bulgaria? It is quite improbable that the plate was brought from Byzantium, since it had no other purpose than as a sample. We should accept that the find-spot of the plate today was the place where the owner of the boulloterion once sojourned.

Who was this Antonios, monk and presbyteros, and how should we explain the discovery of his plate in Bulgaria?

First of all, let us determine the dating of this lead piece.

The characteristic "graphic" style of the image of the Virgin as well as the overall appearance of the seal attest to a dating generally in the last quarter of the IXth c. (see **Соколова**, Печати Херсона, 78-80).

Antonios was a monk and presbyter, but he had his own seal to stamp his correspondence while sojourning in Bulgaria, which is to say that he must have been a high-ranking cleric who sojourned on a certain occasion in the newly baptized Bulgaria.

Is such an individual attested in the chronicles?

In search of a person of a similar name and position in various sources I came across the Life of Patriarch Antonios II (August 893 – 12th February 901). If the will is there, one can find information in it relating the person of this Antonios to the owner of the seal found in Bulgaria.

We should point out that the information on Patriarch Antonios II is rather scanty. The studies devoted to the latter are also very few (general information on his person, see *ODB*, 125; *PmBZt*, 1, no. 564).

A main source for his life is *Vita Antonii Caulea* published in *Bibliographia hagiographica graeca*, 139b, as well as certain passages from it commented by H. Loparev (*Византийския жития святых VIII-IX веков.-Византийский временник*, 17, 1910, 148-152).

Since the Life is poor in facts, let us start with his author Nikephoros, rhetor and philosopher, student of Photios and follower of Emperor Leo VI the Philosopher (886-912). Nikephoros graduated from the Patriarchal School and defended his dissertation for the Rhetor's degree as well as for the Philosopher of Byzantine letters degree (**Лопарев**, *Византийския жития святых*, с. 148).

The surviving letters of Patriarch Photios (858-867/887-886) to the same Nikephoros show that the patriarch often revised his student's essays and that after finishing school Nikephoros ardently engaged himself in rhetorics and philosophy (**Photius**, *Epistulae*, vol. 6, nos 204, 217, 235, 242, 243-244).

The life and biography of Patriarch Antonios were not very eventful for which reason

Nikephoros had to resort to his rhetoric talent while writing his Life. It is of particular importance to us to know that the author of the Life was a contemporary of his hero and that both were adherents to Emperor Leo VI.

The information on Antonios before he occupied the Patriarchal post is rather scanty. His place and date of his birth are unknown. It could be Phrygia, Thrace or Constantinople alike. His father was in military service and then moved to the capital Constantinople where he married and Antonios was born from this marriage. The little Antonios lived with his mother in her estate near the capital. When he was five, he started studying imitating a clergyman. After his mother's death he studied the psalm-book under his father's supervision, and when he was twelve he wanted to live the life of a hermit and was presented to a churchwarden of a monastery whose name is unknown where he studied the supreme science gaining real knowledge. When he reached man's age (i.e. attained his majority) he proceeded with practical philosophy and was granted the title of presbyter (see **Лопарев**, *Византийския жития святых*, 149-150.)

What else makes us focus our attention on the person of the future Patriarch Antonios besides the coincidence in name, monk's title and presbyter's rank?

In his Life it is noted that τῆς τὸν ἔλεον βλυσούσης χειρὸς μετεῖχον Σκύθαι καὶ Θράκες καὶ δὴ σὺν ἄλλοις καὶ οἱ πρὸς τῇ Ἀσίᾳ Μυσοὶ καὶ δὴ πρὸς τοὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ ἀσκουμένους "he extended his benefactions not only to the capital but also to the Scythians, Thracians, Moesians and ascetics from Olympus to whom he distributed money for their needs" (see **Лопарев**, *Византийския жития святых*, с.150, зам.2.)

When the right time came, the Emperor (Leo VI) called him from Olympus and appointed him patriarch (August 893). Therefore he must have been known in the Palace well before that date and various missions must have been assigned to him. The citation that he extended his benefactions not only to the capital but also to the Scythians, Thracians, Moesians and ascetics from Olympus seems to enumerate his missions for dissemination of God's blessing and his elevation to the patriarchal rank must have found him in Olympus. Behind the Moesian ethnos we should understand the Bulgarians (see **Кръстанов**, Т. Възхвала на гръцки език от Михаил монах от IX в.-*Трудове на катедрите по история и богословие*, 4, Шумен, 2001, 181-182).

This piece of information provides us with the opportunity to reason that Antonios supported materially the Bulgarian church and on a certain occasion (before his elevation to the patriarchal position) he was sent to Bulgaria, most probably to the capital Pliska, on a clerical or state mission for strengthening the relationships between the two churches. His skills of a healer of old ecclesiastical wounds and the ability to consolidate expenses were specially emphasized in his Vita (see **Лопарев**, *Византийския жития святых*, с.151, зам.1).

Of course, this assumption is vulnerable but it is a fact that a sample imprint of the seal of a certain Antonios, monk and presbyter, was found in the Bulgarian capital Pliska dated to the last quarter of the IXth c. This means that this Antonios must have sojourned or stayed for a longer period here.

It is possible that he was among the Byzantine clerics sent to Bulgaria as the archbishop's retinue and that he was actually a Bulgarian cleric. There is great similarity between this plate and the sample imprint of Peter, grand curator of the archon of Bulgaria, (for him, see **Jordanov**, **Zhekova**, no. 72) both in dating and origin. Both originate from the capital Pliska and were connected with the processes in the Bulgarian state after the conversion to Christianity.

1793. Ἰωάννης ὁ τοῦ Ἀλεξίου πρεσβύτερος (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 14526. Purchased from Dimitar Yordanov from Shumen. Find-spot: village of Melnitsa, district of Elhovo. D. 17-20 (15) 5 mm. W.... Despite the fact that the strike was not well centered, the imprint is relatively strong and full, though the last two lines of the text reverse are poorly preserved, which makes its reading difficult. It is possible to suggest that following the office Π = πρ(εσβυτέρω) is a patronym, whose nephew is the owner of the seal. But it also cannot be ruled out that this is the name of the church where John served (see Janin, *Eglises et monasteres*, p.18, 19, and for the seals see Laurent, *Corpus*, V.3, no. 1897).

Ed. Jordanov, Melnitsa, no. 30; Jordanov, *Family Names*, no. 23.

No parallels known.

Obv. Bust of St. John the Baptist blessing (r. hand) and holding a scroll (l. hand). Inscription in two columns: Θ-ΙΩ-Ο || Π-.

Rev. Inscription of five lines:

+ΚΕΡ'Θ'ΤΩCΩΔ8' | ΙΩΠΤΩΤ | 8ΑΛΕΖΙ | ΩΤ8

+Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σῶ(ν) δού(λῳ) Ἰω(άνν)η πρ(εσβυτέρω) ὁ τῷ τοῦ Ἀλεξίου

1794. Νικόλαος πρεσβύτερος (XI c.)

RHM-Shumen, no. 1212a. Find-spot: Pliska. D. 21-24 (16) 2.5 mm. W. 6.16 g. Well-centered, but incomplete imprint probably due to looseness of the boulloterion.

Ed. Jordanov, Zhekova, no. 351.

Parallels: Zacos, *Seals*, II, no. 615, struck in the same boulloterion.

Obv. Bust of St. Nicholas blessing (r. hand) and holding a book (l. hand). Vertical inscription: Θ-N- I ||

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

ΟΜΟΝΥ | .ΟΝ'Τ'CH | ..Μ'ΧΑΡ | ..Ε'Ρ'

Ὁμονυ[μ]οῦν(τι) σῆ(ν) [νέ]μ(οις) χάρ(ιν) [πρ]ε(σβύτε)ρ(ος)

The publisher of the cited parallel has read the last line ΠΕΡ'=(π(άτ)ερ. On our specimen and on the one published by Zacos it is clearly visible that there is one P after the abbreviation sign, so ΠΡΕ'Ρ' could be deciphered as πρεσβύτερος. It is hard to say who this presbyteros was. He presumably lived in Constantinople, from where he wrote to Pliska to an unknown recipient. Perhaps he had the same recipient as the laura of some Antonius.

1795. Γρηγόριος Ἀγκυρας (end of the XI c.).

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 28679. Find-spot: the stronghold near the village of Voden, dsc. Asenovgrad. D. 19-21 (17-18) 4 mm. Well-centered and well-executed imprint but the reading is rendered difficult due to the unusual mirror-reversed text.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. St. George standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on shield set on the ground. Inscription in two columns: Θ-Γ-Ε || Ω-P-Γ'. A circular inscription beginning at 12 o'clock: +ΚΕΡ'Θ'ΤΩC'Δ8'. It continues on the other side of the depiction. The inscription is mirror-reversed: ΓΡΗΓΟΤΩ ΑΓΚΥΡ.

Rev. St. Theodore standing frontally, holding a spear (r. hand), l. hand resting on a sword set on the ground. Inscription in two columns: Θ-Θ-Ε-Δ-P || Α-ΠΟ-ΔΑ-Ξ-Μ'. A circular inscription beginning at 12 o'clock: Α'ΠΡΕCΡΩΝ. It continues on the other side of the depiction. The inscription is mirror-reversed: ΤΩΑΓΙC ΜΑΡΤΥΡ. +Κ(ύρι)ε β(οή)θ(ει) τῷ σ(ῶ) δού(λῳ) Γρηγ(ορίῳ) τῷ Ἀγκυρ(α) (πρωτο)πρεσβ(ε)ων τῷ Ἁγίῳ Μαρτυρ(ε)ς

The text of this seal is very unclear.

The seal belonged to a certain Grigorios Ankyra in his capacity as (πρωτο)πρεσβ(ε)ων τῷ Ἁγίῳ Μαρτυρ(ε)ς or Ἁγίος Μάρτυρ(ος). It is difficult to determine the location of this church. It might have been in Ankyra.

The epithet of St. Theodore Α-ΠΟ-ΔΑ-Ξ-Μ' is also unusual and is not found anywhere else. Perhaps it refers to an origin from the site of Δαξιμών near Amaseia and Ankyra (for a short information on it, see OBD, p. 592).

1796. Ἀθανάσιος μοναχὸς (X-XI c.)

National Historical Museum, Sofia, no. 23727. Find-spot: uncertain. D. 11-24 mm. Half of what was once a good imprint.

Unpublished.

No parallels known.

Obv. Inscription of four lines:

ΘΚΕ. | .ΝΑ. | ..CΙΩ | .ΟΝ'Χ

Rev. Inscription of four lines:

+C.. | ΛΙ... | ΟΝΟ.. | ΠΠ..

+Θ(εοτό)κε [β(οή)θ(ει)] Ἀ]να[στα]σίῳ [μ]ον(α)χ(ῶ)